



**NO  
VOTE**

***GOP Leaders to Block Immigration Measure***

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Va. speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington. A spokesman for Cantor says he'll block a vote next week on legislation giving a path to citizenship to people living here illegally who serve in the military. Friday's announcement from Cantor comes after a Republican congressman from California announced plans to try to bring the measure to a vote as an amendment to the annual defense bill.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)



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## In Dominican, legislators ok citizenship bill

EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ

Associated Press

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)** — Legislators on Friday unanimously approved a bill they say would allow thousands of people of Haitian descent born in the Dominican Republic the opportunity to obtain naturalized citizenship.

The lower house originally was expected to create a committee to analyze the bill, but legislators noted there was an urgency to vote on the measure filed this week by President Danilo Medina's office. The proposal now goes to the Senate for debate.

"No other issue has generated so much interest," legislator Ruben Maldonado said. Anibal de Castro, ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the U.S., praised the measure.

"The government is providing a practical solution that ensures the fundamental rights of all persons residing in the Dominican Republic, especially those born and raised in the country," he said in a statement.

Medina submitted the bill after a court last year issued a much criticized ruling that would allow the government to strip the citizenship of thousands of people born to migrants living illegally in the Dominican Republic.

Human rights groups have estimated that about 200,000 people could lose their citizenship, the majority of them of Haitian descent, but the government maintains that only some 24,000 people would be affected, with some 13,000 of them of Haitian ancestry.

Medina's bill seeks to uphold citizenship rights for children born to foreign parents, but only those registered with the government and who have various identification documents. Critics have noted that many people do not possess those documents or have had them seized by government officials, which would force them to register as aliens in their birthplace. □

# India's opposition leader sweeps into power

ELLEN BARRY

© 2014 New York Times

**NEW DELHI** — India's opposition leader, Narendra Modi, swept into power as prime minister-elect Friday, as voters delivered a crushing verdict on the corruption scandals and flagging economic growth that

a wild, chanting crowd shortly after the Indian National Congress, which has controlled India's government for nearly all of its postcolonial history, conceded defeat.

"Brothers and sisters, you have faith in me, and I have faith in you," Modi

by Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party and the defeat of the Congress party became clear even before election officials finished counting the 550 million votes cast in the five-week general elections.

After midnight in Delhi, the Election Commission de-

gional leaders. That would give Modi the strongest mandate of any Indian leader since Rajiv Gandhi took office in 1984, riding the wave of sympathy that followed the assassination of his mother, Indira Gandhi. Rahul Gandhi, the heir apparent to the political dynasty that has formed the Congress party's backbone, appeared to have only narrowly won re-election Friday in his home constituency, a stronghold that he carried by more than 300,000 votes in 2009. In a humiliation for Gandhi, 43, a group of workers gathered around party headquarters in the capital city, chanting "Bring Priyanka, Save Congress," a reference to his younger sister, who is seen as a more charismatic politician.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi, a Congress spokesman, conceded that his party had been defeated.

"If the leads are correct, the results are conclusive," he said in a telephone interview. In his speech, Modi hinted at expectations of political longevity, saying that he had heard even small children using the slogan from his campaign that meant it was his turn to govern. "They will be coming to take part in elections after 15-16 years," he said. "We are preparing the new generation also." □



**Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and India's next prime minister Narendra Modi greets the media as he leaves the residence of his 90-year-old mother in Gandhinagar, in the western Indian state of Gujarat, Friday, May 16, 2014. Modi and his party won national elections in a landslide Friday, preliminary results showed, driving the long-dominant Congress party out of power in the most commanding victory India has seen in more than a quarter century.**

(AP Photo/Saurabh Das)

have plagued their country in recent years.

In a victory speech in Vadodara, the city in Gujarat state where he won his own parliamentary seat in a landslide, Modi addressed

said, in remarks that were interrupted several times by the crowd chanting his name. "We have the capacity to fulfill the common man's aspirations."

The contours of the victory

clared that the BJP had won 275 seats and was leading in seven more, enough support to form a government without brokering a coalition deal with any of India's fractious re-

## Toronto Mayor Ford spotted in Ontario town

**TORONTO (AP)** — Toronto Mayor Rob Ford was spotted in a small Ontario town Friday despite his lawyer insisting that the embattled leader of Canada's biggest city is still in rehab.

Ford announced late last month that he was seeking treatment for an alcohol problem after a new video surfaced that appeared to show Ford smoking a crack pipe late last month. It was only the latest twist in the ongoing saga of Ford, whose notorious and frequently filmed behavior led the city council to strip him of most of his powers after he admitted last year that he had smoked crack in a

"drunken stupor" and was depicted on video threatening to "murder" someone.

On Friday, dozens of people spotted Ford outside a shopping plaza in Bracebridge, a community in the province's countryside, said resident Brody Lisle, 19. Lisle was one of many locals who posed with the mayor for a photo.

"I was so excited, I'm still shaking after seeing him," Lisle said. "He seemed a lot thinner and he was really happy and cheerful."

Ford said rehab was "really good," said Lisle, who called herself a fan of the confessed crack-smoking

mayor.

"He's done two weeks so far and he's got six more weeks left," she said, "and he's feeling really good about himself, and health-wise, he's lost a few pounds." The Bracebridge Examiner first reported that it received a tip Ford was in the area Friday afternoon and posted mobile phone photos of the mayor posing with residents.

More photos of Ford posing with construction workers and staff at a dry cleaning store were posted later on Twitter.

Ford's lawyer Dennis Morris wouldn't confirm his client's whereabouts.

"I cannot tell you where the mayor is, unfortunately," Morris said. "The good news is, he's in rehab, and you know, it's always nice to leave him alone."

Friday marked a year since the Toronto Star and the U.S. website Gawker first reported seeing a video that appeared to show the mayor smoking crack cocaine.

Months later, Ford admitted to trying the drug while drunk and to using drugs while in office.

The mayor has previously publicly swore off alcohol, saying he had cleaned up his act and was working out. □



## GM is fined \$35M over deadly defect

JOAN LOWY  
TOM KRISHER  
Associated Press  
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Federal safety regulators slapped General Motors with a record \$35 million fine Friday for taking more than a decade to disclose an ignition-switch defect in millions of cars that has been linked to at least 13 deaths.

investigation — should fine the company \$1 billion or more and bring charges against GM engineers and their superiors.

"That's the only way you're going to change GM's behavior," he said.

Congress is also investigating GM, and the automaker faces hundreds of lawsuits over deaths and injuries attributed to the ig-

ment's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which has been criticized for failing to take action on the switches despite thousands of complaints from car owners, used a news conference to turn the tables on GM, detailing some of the most damning evidence against the automaker.

Acting NHTSA Administra-



Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington. U.S. safety regulators on Friday, May 16, 2014 announced they have fined General Motors \$35 million for delays in recalling small cars with faulty ignition switches that are linked to at least 13 deaths. It's the maximum penalty that the government can impose and the first time an automaker has been fined that much.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Under an agreement with the Transportation Department, GM admitted it was slow to inform regulators, promised to report problems faster and submitted to more in-depth government oversight of its safety operations.

The fine was the maximum the department can impose. "Literally, silence can kill," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said, adding: "GM did not act and did not alert us in a timely manner. What GM did was break the law."

Safety advocates said the fine, which is less than a day's revenue for GM, is too small to deter bad behavior by automakers.

Clarence Ditlow, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety, said the Justice Department — which is conducting a parallel criminal in-

vestigation.

The company has acknowledged knowing that the switches in its small cars had problems since at least 2001. But it was not until February that it began recalling 2.6 million of the cars, mainly Chevrolet Cobalts and Saturn Ions.

Automakers are required by federal law to report safety defects to the government within five days of discovering them.

When jostled, the ignition switches can slip out of the "run" position and shut off the engine. That cuts off the power steering and brakes, potentially causing drivers to lose control. It also disables the air bags.

GM says at least 13 people have died in crashes linked to the problem. Lawyers suing the company say the death toll is at least 53.

The Transportation Depart-

ment's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which has been criticized for failing to take action on the switches despite thousands of complaints from car owners, used a news conference to turn the tables on GM, detailing some of the most damning evidence against the automaker.

Acting NHTSA Administrator David Friedman said a 2009 memo from a parts supplier to GM stated that the switch problem could disable the cars' air bags. Had the government been told that at the time, it would have sought a recall, Friedman said.

Friedman said it was clear many GM employees knew about the bad switch years ago, from engineers to executives. But he said the agency has no records to contradict CEO Mary Barra's claim that she found out about it only recently.

He portrayed the scandal as part of a larger problem with the safety culture at GM, saying the automaker's training materials discouraged employees from using words like "defect" or "dangerous" when reporting trouble up the chain of command. □

## GOP leaders to block immigration measure

ERICA WERNER  
DONNA CASSATA  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republican leaders intervened Friday to prevent a vote on U.S. immigration legislation, dealing a severe blow to election-year efforts to overhaul the dysfunctional system.

The move came after a Republican congressman announced plans to try to force a vote next week, over strong conservative opposition, on his measure creating a path to citizenship for immigrants who were brought illegally to the U.S. as children and serve in the military.

Rep. Jeff Denham labeled his bill the ENLIST Act and said he would seek a vote as an amendment to the popular annual defense bill, the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA.

In response, Doug Heye, spokesman for House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, said: "No proposed ENLIST amendments to NDAA will be made in order."

Heye said no stand-alone vote on the measure would be permitted, either.

It was the latest setback for President Barack Obama's efforts to move comprehensive immigration legislation through Congress to boost border security, remake legal worker programs and offer legal status to the estimated 11.5 million people now living here illegally. The Senate passed an immigration bill last year, but it's been stalled in the Republican-led House.

Cantor, House Speaker John Boehner and other House Republican leaders have insisted they want to advance immigration legislation, though they've rejected the Senate's comprehensive bill. Chances have always looked slim, but the White House and outside advocates saw a window for action over the next several months, before Congress' August recess and November midterm elections.

Friday's developments seemed to all but rule out anything happening on the issue this year in the House, if even Denham's limited measure could not advance. Despite a wide coalition of business, labor, religious groups, farmers and others pushing for an immigration overhaul, many individual Republican House members who represent largely white districts have been unmoved.

Denham's measure was widely popular and seen as perhaps the likeliest area for compromise.

But in recent weeks prominent conservative groups, including the Heritage Foundation, announced their opposition. Heritage Action, the group's political arm, announced it would include the vote in its ratings on lawmakers and called Denham's legislation "deplorable."

Cantor himself, who previously had supported offering a path to citizenship for immigrants brought illegally as children, faces a primary challenge in Virginia June 10 from a tea party opponent who has criticized the majority leader for not being conservative enough and accused him of supporting amnesty for immigrants living here illegally.

Dave Brat, an economics professor at Randolph-Macon College, is a long-shot to unseat Cantor, but his campaign has won attention and support from conservative leaders such as radio host Laura Ingraham, partly because of his attacks against Cantor over immigration.

Asked Friday if Boehner disagreed with Cantor's decision, Boehner's spokesman, Michael Steel, said he did not. □





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# Hillary Clinton recalls a good economy in the 1990s

**KEN THOMAS**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Hillary Rodham Clinton pointed to the 1990s as a time of broad-based prosperity under her husband, former President Bill Clinton, contrasting it Friday with policies under Republicans that she said promoted tax cuts for the wealthy and the emergence of "an entire shadow banking system."

The potential 2016 Democratic presidential candidate offered her most extensive remarks on the economy since departing the State Department as the nation's top diplomat, portraying her husband's two terms in the White House as a period of steady job growth and opportunity for many Americans.

Clinton's speech to the New America Foundation came as President Barack Obama has pushed policies to address economic inequality and make higher wages a key issue for Democrats in the fall midterm elections. It also came as some liberal Democrats have backed a brand of economic populism espoused by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat, and questioned whether the former first lady is too close to Wall Street.

Republicans have signaled that they would make a generational argument against Clinton if she runs for president, arguing that she represents the past. Sen. Marco Rubio, a possible Republican presidential contender in 2016, said in New Hampshire recently that Democrats were "threatening to nominate someone now who wants to take us to the past — to an era that's gone and never coming back."

But Clinton's speech showed that Democrats could try to portray that era as a model.

Offering a brief history lesson, Clinton touted the creation of nearly 23 million jobs during her husband's

administration along with measures to raise the minimum wage and provide health insurance for children — "all with a balanced budget that resulted in surpluses as far as the eye could see."

The eight years that followed, Clinton said, offered lessons of how budget surpluses could turn into deficits and "what happens when your only policy prescription is to cut taxes for the wealthy."

She did not mention President George W. Bush by name but said during that time the nation had to "deal with the aftermath of a terrible terrorist attack and two wars without paying for them." □



Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton shields her eyes from stage lights as she looks at the audience following her address to the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Global Forum closing plenary in Washington, Wednesday, May 14, 2014. Clinton pointed to the 1990s as a time of broad-based prosperity under her husband, former President Bill Clinton, contrasting it Friday with policies under Republicans.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

## Arkansas state court suspends gay marriage ruling

**ANDREW DeMILLO**  
**Associated Press**

**LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP)** — The highest court in Arkansas has suspended a judge's ruling striking down the state's same-sex marriage ban, halting the distribution of licenses that have been issued to hundreds of gay couples.

The state Supreme Court on Friday granted a request to suspend a lower court's decision voiding a 2004 constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a

woman. Pulaski County Circuit Judge Chris Piazza last week struck down the ban, but expanded that ruling on Thursday to include all state laws preventing gay couples from marrying.

McDaniel and four counties named in the lawsuit asked justices to stay Piazza's ruling while it's on appeal.

More than 450 same-sex couples received marriage licenses since Piazza's ruling last week. Only Pulaski and two other counties began issuing licenses to same-sex couples on Friday.

Seventeen other states allow gay marriage. Judges have struck down bans in Idaho, Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Virginia. But in Idaho, plans for same-sex marriages to begin Friday were put on hold as the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals considered whether the governor and attorney general should have more time to file an appeal a judge's ruling overturning its state ban.

The Arkansas Supreme Court had denied a request Wednesday to stay

Piazza's initial ruling, but still effectively halted same-sex weddings by also noting that a separate law prohibiting clerks from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples was still on the books.

Piazza revised his order Thursday, saying no one in the state was harmed by the marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples. He rejected the state's request to put his decision on hold, saying gay couples would be harmed by that action. □



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## \$25M lawsuit for inmate who died in hot NYC cell

**JAKE PEARSON**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The mother of a mentally ill, homeless veteran who was found dead in a 100-degree Fahrenheit (38-Celsius) New York City jail cell that overheated due to an equipment malfunction said she is angry at city officials and plans to file a \$25 million wrongful death lawsuit against the city.

"I know he was yelling for help and nobody ever came," Alma Murdough, 75, said at a news conference, surrounded by family. "He was hollering for help, and nobody came." Her attorney, Derek Sells, said he has filed court papers to demand the city preserve all communication related to the death of



Attorney Derek Sells, center, sits between Alma Murdough, right, and Cheryl Warner, left, the mother and sister of former Marine Jerome Murdough, during a news conference on Friday May 16, 2014 in New York. Sells plans to file a wrongful death lawsuit against the city on behalf of Alma Murdough for the death of her son, who was found dead in a 100 degree cell on Rikers Island.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

Jerome Murdough.

Sells said Murdough, a 56-year-old former Marine, should have had around-the-clock supervision while jailed at Rikers Island following a misdemeanor trespassing arrest.

The Associated Press first reported in March on suspicions about Murdough's cause of death in February. One official who spoke at the time on the condition of anonymity described him as having "basically baked to death."

Sells last month filed a notice of claim, the first procedural step necessary for a civil suit against the city, with the comptroller's office. In it, he writes that Murdough's death was caused by carelessness and negligence by employees of the Department of Correction, or DOC.

Prosecutors are investigating the death.

"This case involves a tragic incident and we will review the lawsuit and respond accordingly," said Nick Paolucci, a spokesman for the city's law department. Corrections officials have declined to comment, citing the ongoing criminal investigation.

Citing a preliminary DOC investigation, court documents filed last month in a separate federal court case show that Murdough's internal body temperature, taken nearly four hours after he was discovered unresponsive in his cell, was 103 degrees Fahrenheit. (40 Celsius). Murdough was slumped at the edge of the foot of his bed with "a pool of vomit and blood on the floor," the documents said. □

## Man who raped girl, killed mom gets life

**SYRACUSE, New York (AP)**

— A New York man was sentenced Friday to life in prison without parole for raping a girl and killing her mother after cutting off his ankle monitor and carjacking them last year.

David Renz, 30, of the Syracuse suburb of Cicero, was given the maximum possible penalty by a judge who said he hoped the sentence would comfort the victims' family.

"One day, you will face another judge," Judge Thomas Miller told Renz. "One day when you pass from this earth, another judge will impose a harsher sentence for the absolute evil you committed."

Renz had no visible reaction to the sentence and

declined an offer to speak. Earlier, a relative of the victim choked up as he read a statement about the toll the crime took on the family.

Renz pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and sex charges in July, admitting that he carjacked the woman and her 10-year-old daughter as they left a gymnastics class in March 2013.

He had cut off the electronic monitoring bracelet he was wearing as a condition of pretrial release on federal pornography charges. He strangled and stabbed the mother as she fought to stop him from raping the girl.

The Associated Press generally does not identify vic-

tims of sex crimes and has not identified the woman to protect the identity of her daughter.

Renz was sentenced earlier this year to 30 years in federal prison for possessing more than 11,000 images and 1,100 videos of child pornography.

Federal authorities announced earlier this week that they would not prosecute Renz on a carjacking charge that could have brought the death penalty. If the U.S. Justice Department had decided to pursue the death penalty in its case, Renz could have withdrawn his guilty pleas on the state charges.

Relatives said they didn't want the death penalty case pursued because it

would have required the girl to testify.

Renz's mother, Kathleen Renz, told the Syracuse Post-Standard (<http://goo.gl/1ZsG7N>) after the sentencing that she prays daily for the victims and was relieved to learn there would be no death penalty. Her son was living with her at the time of the attack.

Reading from a statement in court last July, David Renz described the crimes and said he did not "fully understand" what led him to attack the mother and child.

Police said he used an air pistol to force the woman to drive her car to a remote section of the parking lot, where he bound both of them and raped the girl. □



## US Financial Front:

## American home building climbed 13.2 percent in April

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. home construction surged in April to its highest pace in five months. Almost all that increase came from the volatile apartment sector, a sign that Americans are still struggling to buy single-family homes.

The Commerce Department said Friday that builders started work on 1.07 million homes at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in April, up 13.2 percent from March. The gains were driven by a 42.9 percent jump in the construction of apartments and condominiums. The rate of building single-family homes rose just 0.8 percent.

The gains for apartment building point to an economy where more Americans rent instead of purchasing a home. Following the housing bust and Great

Recession, Americans have been coping with flat wages and job insecurity, making it difficult to save for a down payment. The home ownership rate was 64.8 percent at the start of the year, down from a peak of 69.2 percent during 2004. Homebuilding has yet to fully rebound during the nearly five-year recovery. That has deprived the economy of a traditional source of growth because each single-family home built creates three jobs and generates \$90,000 in tax revenues, according to the National Association of Homebuilders.

Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, said that the April construction numbers are "consistent with more strength in rental demand than home sales."

Most of the April gains in multi-family housing were

concentrated in the Northeast and Midwest, regions that are bouncing back from the harsh winter where snow and freezing temper-

atures halted construction. Applications for building permits, a gauge of future activity, rose 8 percent to

an annual rate of 1.08 million. The gains in permits also came almost exclusively from apartments and condominiums. An index of builder confidence for this month fell a percentage point to 45, the National Association of Homebuilders and Wells Fargo reported Thursday. A reading below 50 indicates that builders consider the conditions for new construction to be poor. The index had been above 50 from June through January. Builders had been on an annual pace to begin construction more than 1 million homes in December and November. But their efforts slowed in January amid fierce snowstorms and freezing temperatures. The number of starts improved slightly in February and March. But activity slowed in the South and West just as warmer weather was boosting construction in the Northeast and Midwest. The pace of housing starts has dropped 5.9 percent since March 2012.



A builder works on a home under construction in northwest Chicago. The Commerce Department reported positive data on U.S. home construction in April on Friday, May 16, 2014.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

atures halted construction. Applications for building permits, a gauge of future activity, rose 8 percent to

Single-family home construction has struggled to fully recover from its winter slowdown.



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# Grass-roots group backs candidate to turn Texas blue



Wendy Davis, left, a Democratic candidate for governor of Texas, signs autographs for supporters after a canvassing rally at Maverick Park in San Antonio. Texas, with its 38 electoral votes and changing demographics, offers a tantalizing opportunity for Democrats to flip the state that is the bulwark of recent Republican presidential campaigns.

(Jennifer Whitney/The New York Times)

AMY CHOZICK

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**SAN ANTONIO** - The instructions seemed simple enough: Knock on your neighbors' doors and tell them to vote for Wendy Davis in Texas' coming election for governor.

"If you do, on occasion, get a random Republican, just say 'Thank you' and keep on knocking," Beth Kloser, 24, an organizer who had worked on President Barack Obama's 2012 campaign, instructed the two dozen Battleground Texas volunteers gathered here one recent Saturday morning.

Bryan Bejarano, 21, a political science student, soon realized the task was not as easy as it sounded. He wandered around a nearby neighborhood with a list of likely Democratic voters, culled using the same algorithms as Obama's campaigns in 2008 and 2012.

The first house on his list was overgrown with foliage and had no doorbell. The second home had stacks of empty boxes on a covered front porch. No one answered at his third stop. "If Wendy Davis wins, we keep going," Bejarano said, undeterred. "If she loses, we keep going."

Texas, with its 38 electoral votes and its changing demographics, offers a tantalizing opportunity for Democrats to flip the state that is the bulwark of any Republican presidential campaign.

That is why after Obama's re-election, Jeremy Bird, the campaign's national field director, started Battleground Texas, a grass-roots political organization whose goal was to make Texas competitive, a long-term effort intended to take root by the 2020 presidential election, at the earliest.

Then, Davis declared her candidacy.

With the task of door-knocking in a state larger than France, Davis' campaign has essentially tried to absorb Battleground Texas as her field operation in a race against Greg Abbott, the state's Republi-

can attorney general. That has put added scrutiny on the group and has created a dynamic that is at times awkward. And now that their fates are intertwined, Battleground Texas may shed some momentum should Davis, a state senator, lose.

"Frankly, what's complicated the Battleground situation is the emergence of Wendy Davis," said James R. Henson, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin and the director of the school's Texas Politics Project.

Battleground Texas volunteers like Bejarano must recruit voters by (delicately) explaining that the cause is bigger than Davis' race. "The tension is there, and it's inevitable," Henson added. "But," he said of the Davis campaign, which trails Abbott's by double digits in most polls, "if you're bleeding to death and you get a blood transfusion, you tend not to argue too much with where the blood is coming from." Davis delivered a pep talk to the small crowd of volunteers here before they were sent throughout the city. She said in an interview that Battleground Texas' get-out-the-vote efforts were exactly what would make a difference for her campaign. "Texas is not a deep-red state," she said. "Texas is a state where people have been staying home."

Bird said that Davis, who became a national figure after her 11-hour filibuster against legislation that would make it more difficult to obtain a legal abortion, had helped Battleground Texas by energizing state Democrats. "Everything we do in every election cycle helps our goal," Bird added. "Our long-term strategy is accelerated by there being a competitive 2014."

But Battleground Texas has learned that registering voters in the state is not quite like anywhere else. Like other southern states, Texas was a Democratic stronghold until the 1970s.

□

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# Fight against Ukraine rebels threatens more unrest

**YURAS KARMANAU**

**PETER LEONARD**

**Associated Press**

**MARIUPOL, Ukraine (AP) —**

Steelworkers from plants owned by Ukraine's richest man retook government buildings from pro-Moscow insurgents, reversing the tide of rebellion and lawlessness that has gripped this industrial port and dealing a setback to anti-Kiev forces aspiring to merge with Russia.

Wearing overalls and hard hats, dozens of workers cleared away barricades of debris and tires outside the Mariupol city hall on Friday, scoring early successes against the pro-Russian forces, but threatening to open a new and dangerously unpredictable cycle of confrontation.

"People are tired of war and chaos. Burglaries and marauding have to stop," said Viktor Gusak, a steelworker who joined in the ef-

fort to banish the pro-Russia militants from Mariupol, the Donetsk region's second-largest city and the site of bloody clashes last week

between Ukrainian troops and the insurgents.

About 75 miles (120 kilometers) to the north, armed backers of Ukrainian unity

dressed in black patrolled in a village just inside the troubled Donetsk region, vowing to expel the separatists through force if nec-

essary.

The patrols, which began Thursday in Mariupol and the village of Velyka Novosilka, were a blow to the separatists who have seized control of government offices in this city and a dozen others in the east. Other similar and apparently unaccountable groups look to be emerging elsewhere in the chaotic east. Should they make substantial incursions, it is unclear whether they will be perceived as liberators or attackers acting on behalf of a little-liked government in Kiev. The latter could precipitate civil conflict.

Government forces have in recent weeks achieved only limited results in quashing the self-styled Donetsk and Luhansk "people's republics" — armed groups that this week declared independence for their regions following contentious referendums. □



Workers of the Ukrainian company Metinvest pose for a photo as they clear away debris in a government building in the eastern Ukrainian city of Mariupol, Friday, May 16, 2014. Local patrols by steelworkers have forced pro-Russia insurgents to retreat from the government buildings they had seized in a major city in eastern Ukraine, giving residents hope that a wave of violence was over. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)



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Tom Rice Architectural Photography



## Turkey: Survivor says mine company to blame

DESMOND BUTLER  
SUZAN FRASER  
Associated Press  
SAVASTEPE, Turkey (AP) —

inspections weren't thorough enough. The mining company has vehemently denied any carelessness.



Turkish miners listen to the mining company's owner, Alp Gurkan, during a news conference in Soma, Turkey, Friday, May 16, 2014. The Turkish mining company defended its safety record Friday, four days after over 250 people died in an underground blaze at its coal mine in western Turkey.

(AP Photo/Emrah Gurel)

A survivor of Turkey's worst mining disaster that killed at least 292 people accused mining company officials of negligence, saying Friday outdated oxygen masks were handed out after the explosion and

Erdal Bicak, 24, said he had just ended his shift Tuesday and he had started to go up to the surface when mine managers ordered him back down because there was a problem. "The company is guilty," Bi-

cak said, saying managers had machines that measure methane gas levels. "The new gas levels had gotten too high and they didn't tell us in time."

His accusations came as Turkish government and mining company officials vehemently denied that negligence was at the root of the country's worst mining disaster even as opposition lawmakers raised questions about possible lax oversight.

Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said at least 292 people died in the tragedy in the western town of Soma. Another nine or 10 people are believed to be missing underground while 485 miners escaped or were rescued from the inferno.

Protesting workers have described the Soma disaster as murder, not an accident, because of what they call flawed safety conditions at that mine and others in the country. Police used tear gas and water cannon to disperse rock-throwing protesters in Soma, where about 1,500 demonstrators urged Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government to resign. The government has asked for a parliamentary inquiry into the disaster to find out what happened and why — but it appeared that officials had already made up their minds Friday. "There's no negligence with respect to this incident," insisted Huseyin Celik, a deputy leader of the ruling party. He said the mine in Soma "was inspected vigorously 11 times since 2009."

"Let's learn from this pain and rectify our mistakes," he said. "(But) this is not the time to look for a scapegoat." Bicak, however, said the last inspection at the Soma mine was six months before the disaster. He said the inspectors only visit the top 100 meters of the mine and the managers knew that. So, the managers would clean up the top part of the mine and the inspectors never saw what was below, he said.

□

## Iran nuclear talks round ends with a big setback

GEORGE JAHN  
Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Iran nuclear talks stalled Friday, casting a shadow on earlier advances and denting hopes that Tehran and six world powers will meet a July 20 target date for a deal meant to curb Iran's atomic program while ending sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi acknowledged the meeting made "no progress" in its ambitious goal of starting to draft an agreement meant to ease a decade of Western distrust about Tehran's nuclear agenda in exchange for sanctions relief.

In that, "we failed," he told reporters. But while saying he was disappointed, he insisted that the result of the three-day talks that ended Friday represented no more than a setback at this point in continuing attempts to reach a deal.

A senior U.S. official — who demanded anonymity under U.S. briefing rules — said there was "great difficulty" in trying to move toward common positions and spoke of "significant" differences. Both Araghchi and the official said further meetings were planned in June, but no dates were announced.

The failure to advance diminished a sense of optimism that had been growing since talks began Feb. 18 on a comprehensive deal. But while diplomats had spoken of some progress before the three-day round that ended Friday, they had also warned of difficult talks ahead on some issues, such as Iran's enrichment program.

Iran says it has no interest in nuclear arms, and wants to enrich only to make reactor fuel. But because the technology can also create weapons-grade uranium for warheads depending on the level of enrichment, Washington and its allies want strict constraints on its size and scope.

The talks are being closely watched by Israel for signs

that Tehran is using them as a cover while trying to reach the ability to make a nuclear weapon — something the Jewish state has vowed to prevent by any means, including force.

While saying diplomacy is the best path, Washington has said all options remain on the table to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. In Jerusalem Friday, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told Israeli leaders that the U.S. "will do what we must" to ensure that goal.

Araghchi said that differences remained on more than a dozen issues and a Western official with detailed knowledge of the talks said that enrichment was among the most divisive topic.

The official declined to go into the specifics of what separated the two sides on enrichment and demanded anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the confidential talks. But general differences have long been known. Iran's nuclear chief, Ali Akbar Salehi, has said publicly that Tehran needs up to 100,000 centrifuges — the enriching machines — for a future nuclear network.

That's about five times as many as the centrifuges Iran now has standing but idle, 10 times that of the machines actually enriching — and much more than the few thousand that diplomats say the U.S. and its allies are prepared to allow. Related differences focus on length of constraints on enrichment and other nuclear activities that could be proliferation-relevant. The diplomats say the U.S. and other Western countries want decade-long limits, whereas Tehran is pushing only for a few years before all restrictions are lifted.

Other disagreements include how — or whether — the talks should also focus on Iranian missiles capable of delivering a nuclear warhead and suspicions that Tehran worked secretly on trying to make atomic arms — allegations the Islamic Republic denies. □

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# Bombings kill 10, wound 70 in Kenyan market

**JASON STRAZIUSO**

**Associated Press**

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** —

Two bombs killed 10 people and wounded 70 others Friday, tossing bodies into the air at a market in Kenya's capital, while hundreds of British tourists were evacuated from the coastal resort of Mombasa after warnings of an impending attack by Islamic extremists.

The U.S. ambassador has requested additional security and is reducing the number of people stationed at the embassy in Nairobi amid an increase in threats.

No group claimed responsibility for the blasts, which went off minutes apart in the Gikomba market near downtown Nairobi.

President Uhuru Kenyatta,

appearing at a previously planned news conference shortly after the bombings, offered his condolences.

But he dismissed the tourism warnings from the U.S. and Britain that led to the evacuations, saying that terrorism is a common problem and not unique to Kenya.

As ambulances and security forces responded to the market bombing, witnesses described a chaotic scene.

"I heard the first blast, then another one," said Gikomba market trader Judy Njeri, who described crouching and crawling on hands and knees after the explosions that wounded some of her colleagues.

"I saw bodies being tossed in the air," she added. "The whole place was thrown

into darkness and a lot of dust."

Police Chief Benson Kibue announced the casualty figures.

Security concerns are high in Kenya because of its proximity to Somalia and the al-Qaida-linked group, al-Shabab, which operates

there. In September, four al-Shabab gunmen attacked the upscale Westgate Mall in Nairobi, killing at least 67 people.

On Thursday and Friday, TUI Travel, which owns the British tourism companies Thomson and First Choice, evacuated customers and

canceled all flights to the coastal city of Mombasa until October. The British government had urged its citizens to leave Mombasa and nearby beach towns. The U.S. and Britain were among several nations renewing warnings of possible terrorist attacks. □



Onlookers gather behind police tape at the site where two blasts detonated, one in a mini-van used for public transportation, in a market area of Nairobi, Kenya, Friday, May 16, 2014. Two blasts hit Kenya's capital on Friday, killing a number of people and injuring many more, in what appeared to be the latest in a string of increasingly frequent terror attacks.

(AP Photo)

## Nigerian leader cancels visit to village of kidnapped schoolgirls

**ADAM NOSSITER**

**ALAN COWELL**

**© 2014 New York Times**

**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria** - A first

visit by Nigeria's president, Goodluck Jonathan, to the village from which nearly 300 girls were abducted by Boko Haram was abruptly canceled Friday because of security fears, according to an official in the president's entourage.

The official said security could not be guaranteed at the village of Chibok, which is 80 miles from this state capital. The road passes through territory largely controlled by Boko Haram; villages along it bear the traces - burned schools, empty houses - of earlier Boko Haram attacks. Jonathan's visit was expected to have symbolic import after weeks in which he has been accused of neglecting the abductions, even though his reaction to it has been consistent with earlier government responses through nearly five years of attacks by Boko Haram. The federal government in Abuja has generally treated the Boko Haram insurgency as a regional problem confined to the country's northeast. A

worldwide outcry over the girls' kidnapping on April 14 has forced an abrupt change in that approach. There are mounting concerns outside of Nigeria that government forces are in poor shape to confront the militants.

"We're now looking at a military force that's, quite frankly, becoming afraid to even engage," Alice Friend, the Pentagon's principal director for African affairs, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington on Thursday. "The Nigerian military has the same challenges with corruption that every other institution in Nigeria does. Much of the funding that goes to the Nigerian military is skimmed off the top, if you will."

The Nigerian president is due to attend a meeting Saturday of regional leaders, hosted by France, that is expected to discuss a joint approach to Boko Haram. Until now there has been little cooperation among Nigeria, Benin, Niger, Cameroon and Chad; members of the Islamist group move with relative freedom across the region's porous borders. □



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# US missionary stabbed to death in Haiti

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)** — An American missionary who came to Haiti shortly after the January 2010 earthquake has been stabbed to death, police and friends said Friday. George Knoop, an elder with the Quisqueya Chapel in Haiti, was attacked inside his home in the Delmas section of the capital on Tuesday afternoon, said friend and fellow church member Zach Segaar-King.

Knoop managed to call friends for help and told them he recognized his assailant before he died, Segaar-King said. A computer was apparently stolen during the attack but it does not appear that robbery was the motive and the slain missionary likely knew his assailant through his ministry efforts in the country, he said. Police investigator Jean-Faustin Solomon said the

motive for the slaying is unknown and no suspects have been arrested. Authorities recovered the knife that was apparently used in the attack at the man's home, which he shared with two roommates who were not home at the time. The 78-year-old victim also worked in Haiti as a volunteer for U.S.-based Missionary Flights International. Larry Campbell, vice presi-

dent of operations for the organization, said Knoop had been a teacher in the Chicago area who felt called by God to work in Haiti after attending a church presentation about the devastating January 2010 earthquake. "He felt that God wanted him to work there, where people had need," Campbell said. "And he went down and tried to see what he could do." □

## Colombia rebels declare election period ceasefire

**ANNE-MARIE GARCIA  
LIBARDO CARDONA**

**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — Colombia's two main rebel groups announced Friday that they will halt fighting for eight days as the country holds a presidential election in which peace talks are a major issue. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC, and the National Liberation Army issued an unusual joint statement declaring the May 20-28 halt in fighting. Colombia's presidential election is on May 25.

Rebels have tried to disrupt past presidential elections and often dismiss Colombia's electoral politics as a sport dominated by the country's elites, so the cease-fire appears to be another vote of confidence in Havana-based peace talks launched in November 2012 by President Juan Manuel Santos. The FARC also declared a cease-fire during March legislative elections.

Santos, who is seeking re-election, has been under attack from his main rivals for breaking with the policy of previous President Alvaro Uribe, whose relentless, U.S.-backed military pressure had seriously weakened the guerrilla forces.

Conservative Party candidate Marta Lucia Ramirez said the rebel announcement "is a cease-fire in which the FARC joins the presidential campaign" of Santos. The Uribe-backed candidate running second behind Santos in most polls, Oscar Ivan Zuluaga, said that "the halt to criminal actions should be indefinite and verifiable."

But the action was welcomed by pro-Santos Sen. Roy Barreras, who said it "is a clear message Colombians that peace is close and is possible." The rebels have declared temporary cease-fires in the past, though they have not been fully honored. The government itself has refused to grant cease-fires to the rebels during the talks. □

# China detains rights lawyer ahead of anniversary

**DIDI TANG  
Associated Press**

**BEIJING (AP)** — Chinese authorities detained a human rights lawyer Friday in an ongoing clampdown on journalists, scholars and lawyers ahead of the June 4 anniversary of the 1989 military crackdown on pro-democracy protests.

office that issued the criminal detention notice said he knew nothing about the case. He refused to give his name. Each year, Beijing detains activists or puts them under house arrest ahead of the June 4 anniversary in an attempt to prevent commemorations of the crack-

down for lobbying for the abolition of China's labor camp system that once allowed police to lock up people considered nuisances by the authorities without due process. This week, police took away Pu's aide, Qu Zhenhong, on suspicion of "illegally obtaining personal

earlier not to do anything to commemorate the 1989 crackdown. Police seized two personal computers, three cellphones, an address book, greeting cards from friends and books on human rights, she said. Tang gained prominence in 2005 when he represented residents in a southern village seeking to impeach a local cadre over corruption. The effort failed, and the law firm Tang was working for came under pressure to terminate his contract, his wife said. His license to practice law — which must be reviewed annually — then expired as no firm was allowed to hire Tang, his wife said. In 2006, Tang started a civil disobedience movement, urging fellow citizens not to cooperate with the authoritarian government by staying away from political groups, making no donations to them and refusing to take part in acts of bribery.

In another case, lawyer Liu Shihui has been detained in Shanghai, according to his girlfriend, Yue Senping. She said Friday that she had yet to find out the charge against him but noted that Liu was wearing a black shirt commemorating the 1989 pro-democracy movement and was on his way to meet a rights activist before he disappeared into police custody.

Liu was recently forced to relocate from Guangzhou to his hometown in northern China's Inner Mongolia region, which was seen as a punishment for his legal activism. □



**Tang holds a placard with Chinese characters "Seventh anniversary of the June 4 memorial day" at an unknown location in China. Chinese authorities detained the human rights lawyer Friday, May 16, 2014, in an ongoing clampdown on journalists, scholars and lawyers ahead of the June 4 anniversary of the 1989 military crackdown on pro-democracy protests.**

(AP Photo/Family of Tang Jingling)

Police took Tang Jingling, 43, away from his home in the southern city of Guangzhou and said he was suspected of starting quarrels and provoking trouble, according to his wife, Wang Yanfang. Tang has represented clients complaining of corruption, land seizures and other grievances. A man who answered the phone at the district police

down on protests centered in Tiananmen Square in central Beijing. In recent months, state media have accused human rights lawyers of disrupting China's legal order. Last week, authorities detained lawyer Pu Zhiqiang and four other people after they attended a private forum on the 1989 crackdown. Pu is known

information." Also detained was Chen Guang, a former People's Liberation Army soldier who was deployed in 1989 near Tiananmen Square and later left the army and became a painter. He has urged authorities to allow unfettered discussion of the crackdown. Tang's wife said state security officers had warned him





## Aruba Marriott Celebrated Mother's Day In A Special Way



**PALM BEACH** - Aruba Marriott celebrated mother's day in a very special way with a mother's day dinner for all the mothers and female associates on Friday, May 9th. Management of the Aruba Marriott orga-

nized this wonderful event to thank all mothers and female associates for all that they do in their important role of motherhood. The event was held in Marriott's Grand Ballroom, which was nicely decorated for

the occasion. All mothers and female associates received a gift set-upon arrival and enjoyed a delightful dinner buffet served by the male associates; Managers, Directors, Hotel Managers and Gen-

eral Manager, who were happy to show their appreciation in such a unique way.

To make the mother's day dinner extra special, the ladies were surprised with a

touching performance by Rocco Flava and Dj Oz. Management of the Aruba Marriott was pleased to see all the mothers and female associates enjoy their special day in such a special way. □



# Mother's Day Celebrated Family Style at Amazonia



**PALM BEACH** – Mother's Day was lavishly celebrated at Amazonia as many groups big and small booked reservations for the big day, pampering moms and celebrating the occasion with great food and drink. The dynamic and colorful group of diners hailed from many island neighborhoods, in quest of culinary excellence and friendly service, two cornerstones of the Amazonia philosophy, which jointly delivered a wonderful day of family fun.

During the past few weeks Amazonia's menu had undergone a refresh under new management, in pursuit of a more varied and a more exciting dining experience. In addition to perfectly grilled cuts of meat and a sensational fresh-ingredient salad bar, the restaurant now serves unique specialty dishes in addition to award winning fresh sushi and sashimi.

Pictured here the De Cas-



tros, the Mirjahs, the Ridderstaps, Ms Stroop, Quandt and Duinker, the Clarks and Zulay Reyes, a waitress at Amazonia, who had her

mom Carmensa and children Zuliany and Tristan, over to celebrate Mother's Day at Amazonia, while she was working! □

## Birthday wishes for Kris, Kim and Barb from Fishes & More!

**PALM BEACH** - At Fishes & More Restaurant a birthday won't go by unnoticed and so these lovely ladies, Kris (47), Kim (43) and Barb (47) found themselves greatly enjoying the congratulations from the staff. The group of three just walked in at Arawak Garden, the plaza where five fab restaurants find

their home. Nightly live music and great food are a good combination, they loved their dinner of chicken fettuccine, shrimp croquettes, fish soup and surf and lobster. Happy birthday, and fondly remember Aruba and the fun you had when you are back in Omaha and Atlanta, please! □





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## MLB wonders why pitchers' elbows keep tearing

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Sports Writer

All of baseball is focused on a most precious 2 1/8 inches - the average length of the ulnar collateral ligament.

This year, more than a dozen major league pitchers already have undergone Tommy John surgery - which involves replacing the elbow ligament with a tendon harvested from elsewhere (often the non-pitching elbow or forearm) in the patient's body. All-Stars Patrick Corbin, Josh Johnson and Matt Moore have had the surgery, and NL Rookie of the Year Jose Fernandez was scheduled to have his operation Friday.

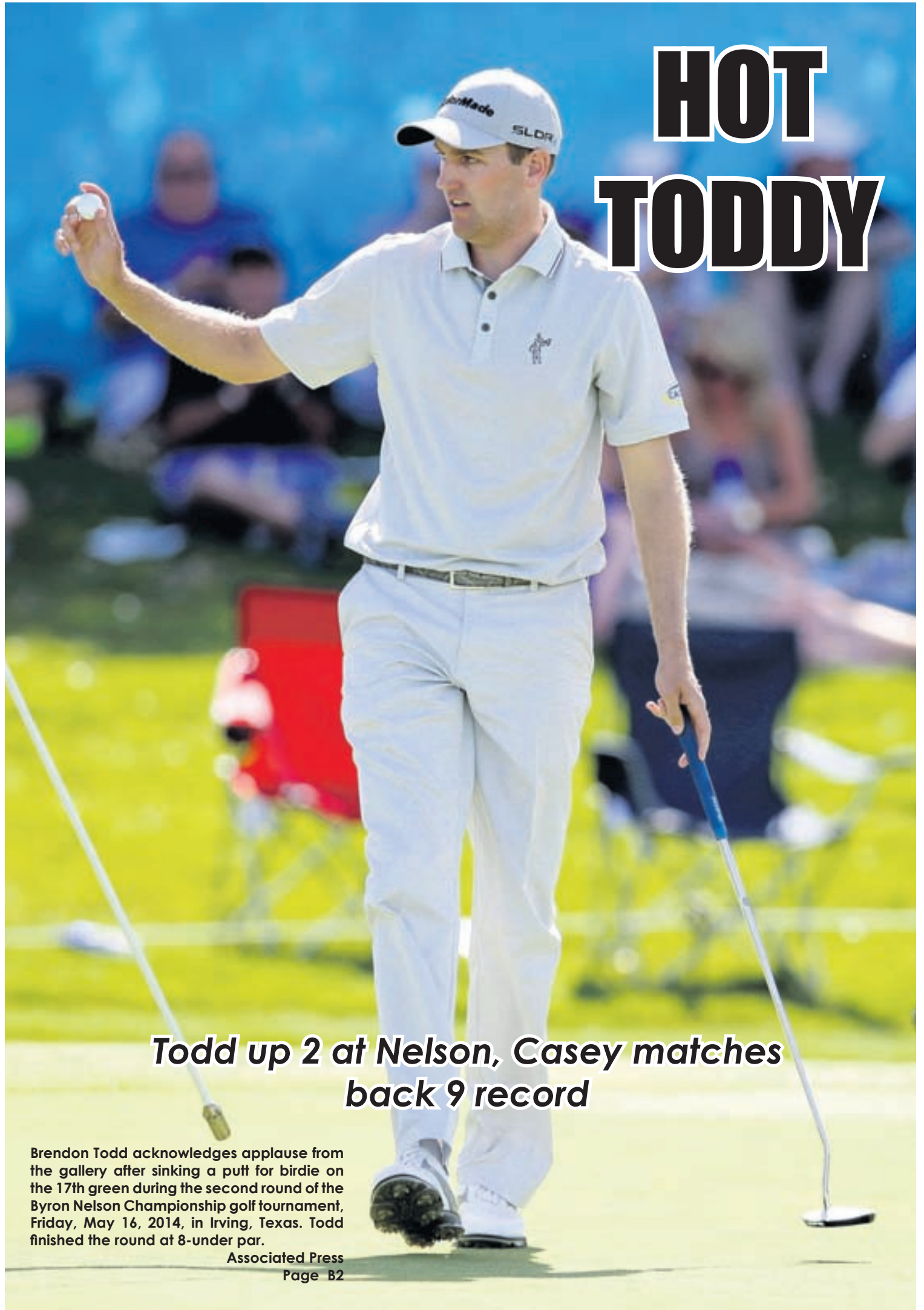
"It's a problem. There's no question about it," baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said. "I'm almost afraid to pick up the paper every day because there's some bad news."

The surgery forces a player to miss at least a full season, but many power pitchers - including Chris Carpenter (2007), Stephen Strasburg (2010) and Adam Wainwright (2011) - threw as hard with their repaired elbows as they did before. Matt Harvey is still recovering from surgery last year. The league hopes it can find ways to protect these million dollar elbows before surgery is required.

Dr. James Andrews, one of the world's top orthopedic physicians, will be meeting with a research committee Monday at Major League Baseball's headquarters.

"We're going to put together a research project to help figure this out. We don't know quite what to say at this point," he said. □

## HOT TODDY



## Todd up 2 at Nelson, Casey matches back 9 record

Brendon Todd acknowledges applause from the gallery after sinking a putt for birdie on the 17th green during the second round of the Byron Nelson Championship golf tournament, Friday, May 16, 2014, in Irving, Texas. Todd finished the round at 8-under par.

Associated Press  
Page B2





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## Todd leads by 2 at Nelson, Casey has record back 9

**STEPHEN HAWKINS**

**AP Sports Writer**

**IRVING, Texas (AP)** -- Paul Casey was scuffling mid-way through his second round at the Byron Nelson Championship, hoping he could do enough just to make the cut.

After a record back nine, Casey was near the top of a crowded leaderboard. He was in a group of eight players at 6-under 134, two strokes behind leader Brendon Todd.

Casey was over par Friday before matching the PGA Tour record for the best score on a back nine, an 8-under 27 with six birdies and an eagle. That was part of his 7-under 63 that was the low round of the day, though he could never remember such a good nine.

"On par-3 courses, I think," Casey said. "I like to think I would be good at shooting low rounds of golf through the past, but certainly nothing like that."

When Casey made the turn, he was coming off a three-putt at No. 9, his third bogey of the day. The 36-year-old Englishman, whose only PGA Tour victory was five years ago, was then 2 over for the tournament, even after making a 9-foot eagle putt on the par-5 seventh hole.

"I think it's easier when your back is up against the wall, like I was today," Casey said. "I was backed into a corner and had to do something. A little shift in, let's say, attitude, and a little shift in goals."

Also at 6 under were Martin Kaymer only five days after he won The Players Championship, and 2003 Masters champion Mike Weir (66). The others were Graham DeLaet and Morgan



**Brendon Todd sinks a putt for birdie on the 17th green during the second round of the Byron Nelson Championship golf tournament, Friday, May 16, 2014, in Irving, Texas. Todd is 8-under par after two rounds.**

Hoffmann, who had had bogey-free 66s, and Tim Herron (66), Charles Howell III (66) and Marc Leishman (68).

Kaymer had his second consecutive 67, and has been in the 60s for all six of his rounds at TPC Four Seasons. The German won at TPC Sawgrass on Sunday.

"If you had a good week, obviously you can take a lot into the next week. You play a little bit more free, a little bit more relaxed," Kaymer said. "It's a new week, and I want to do as good as possible here."

For the second time in five years, Todd is back on the

PGA Tour after getting his card back through the Web.com Tour. He ended his round with back-to-back birdies to wrap up a round of 64 in which he needed only 22 putts. That included the 6-footer at the par-3 17th after his tee shot rolled just past the hole.

"It's nice to put two under-par rounds together before the cut. That's been a challenge for me this year," Todd said. "I was patient today."

Todd, who started with six consecutive pars before four birdies in a five-hole stretch, first got to 7 under with a 12-foot birdie at the

par-3 13th hole, but gave that stroke back at the par-4 15th when he hit his first two shots into the rough and had his only bogey. Peter Hanson was leading after a first-round 65, but was eight strokes worse Friday and dropped back to a tie for 25th at 2 under. David Duval, only a stroke off the lead after an opening 66 that included birdies on four of his last five holes, shot a 76 Friday and missed the cut by a stroke at 2-over 142. The former No. 1 player, now 890th in the world 15 years later, had six bogeys over his last 11 holes and had only one

birdie during his second round.

Weir hasn't had a top-25 finish since 2010, when the 44-year-old Canadian left-hander suffered a partial ligament tear in his right elbow.

"The work I've been doing over the years is to get back into this position, and now I've got to see if I can handle it and get momentum going and play well on the weekend," Weir said. "It's been difficult to play and not be in contention." Casey made a 6 1/2-foot birdie putt at No. 10. His drive at the short par-4 11th was short of the greenside bunker, and from an awkward stance hit his approach over the pin onto the fringe before making a 24-foot birdie. He also had birdies at Nos. 13-15, a 32-foot putt for an eagle-3 at the 16th, and closed with another birdie.

The overall nine-hole scoring record is Corey Pavin's 8-under 26 on the front nine in the first round of the 2006 U.S. Bank Championship in Milwaukee in 2006. Seven others have had 27s on nine holes,

the last Nick Watney in the third round of the 2011 AT&T National.

Scottie Scheffler, a 17-year-old amateur from Dallas, shot a 68 with six birdies and four bogeys to make the cut at 1-under 139.

Jordan Spieth, now 20 and the eighth-ranked player in the world, made the Nelson cut at ages 16 and 17 when he too was a top-ranked junior player from Dallas playing on a sponsor exemption. Spieth was 3 under after a 67 Friday.

Defending Nelson champion Sang-Moon Bae missed the cut after rounds of 73 and 74. □

**Associated Press.**



## NL Capsules

# Padres' 3 HRs beat Reds 6-1, split doubleheader

**The Associated Press**

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — Rene Rivera hit the first of San Diego's three homers and Tyson Ross allowed three hits in seven innings Thursday night, leading the Padres to a 6-1 victory and a split of their doubleheader with the Cincinnati Reds.

Johnny Cueto pitched a three-hitter for his second shutout in the opener of the day-night doubleheader, a 5-0 victory.

The Padres won their first series on the road this season, taking two of three. They have won five of their last six games, their best stretch of the season.

Ross (5-3) walked five batters — including three in the first inning — and struck out eight, including Joey Votto three times.

Rivera hit a two-run homer off left-hander Jeff Francis (0-1), who was called up to make his Reds debut. Francis gave up three runs in five innings.

Everth Cabrera and Yonder Alonso hit solo shots off the bullpen, their first homers of the season. The three homers were San Diego's season high.

In the opener, Cueto extended his season-opening streak of domination against a team that has been shut out more than any other in the majors — seven times.

Cueto is the first Reds pitcher to go at least seven innings in each of his first nine starts since Bucky Walters in 1944.

Brandon Phillips homered off Ian Kennedy (2-5) and Zack Cozart singled home two runs, part of a three-hit game for the shortstop.

**YANKEES 1, METS 0**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Derek Jeter watched the last four outs of his final regular-season Subway Series game from the bench, pulled off the field during a double switch in the bottom of the eighth inning of Yankees' victory.

Alfonso Soriano's RBI double in the seventh broke up a scoreless duel at Citi Field between pitchers making their major league debuts. Rookie reliever

Dellin Betances struck out six in a row as the Yankees earned a split of this year's interleague series between crosstown rivals with their second straight shutout.

David Robertson got David Wright to ground out to Jeter's replacement at shortstop, Brendan Ryan, with runners at the corners to end the eighth.

Jeter left after an 0-for-4 night. The Yankees captain came out when Robertson entered to face Wright. Robertson pitched a perfect ninth for his seventh save.

**BREWERS 4, PIRATES 3**

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — Khris Davis hit a game-ending two-run single and the Milwaukee Brewers rallied in the ninth off closer Mark Melancon.

Ryan Braun led off the inning by singling to right before Melancon (1-2) walked the next two hitters to load the bases with nobody out.

Up came Davis, who smashed his broken-bat hit into short center to drive in Braun and Jonathan Lucroy. Teammates showered Davis with cups of water in the face in celebration after he reached first.

Reliever Rob Wooten (1-1) threw 1-1-3 scoreless innings.

The comeback spoiled the return of Pirates starter Wandy Rodriguez from the disabled list with right knee inflammation. Rodriguez

allowed solo homers to Rickie Weeks and Martin Maldonado but struck out four in his first start since April 19.

Gaby Sanchez's solo homer off Yovani Gallardo in the sixth snapped a 2-2 tie to give the Pirates the lead until Melancon broke down in the ninth. Subbing for injured closer Jason Grilli, Melancon had converted his four previous save opportunities.

**GIANTS 6, MARLINS 4**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Buster Posey hit a go-ahead double as part of a three-run fifth inning and San Francisco held on to



San Diego Padres catcher Rene Rivera, right, catches first baseman Yonder Alonso as Alonso falls over the dugout railing while trying to catch a foul ball hit by Cincinnati Reds' Chris Heisey in the fifth inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader, Thursday, May 15, 2014, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

beat Miami.

Mike Morse homered for the second consecutive game and drove in three runs while Hunter Pence added three hits and scored twice for the Giants, who trailed by three runs before rallying to bail out struggling starter Matt Cain.

Cain (1-3) earned his first win of the season despite another shaky outing at AT&T Park. The former San Francisco ace gave up two home runs and allowed all the Marlins' scoring in the first three innings before settling down to pitch into the eighth.

Garrett Jones hit his sixth home run for Miami.

**CARDINALS 5, CUBS 3**

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Michael Wacha pitched seven innings and drove in two runs for St. Louis.

Wacha (3-3) had lost his last three decisions since an April 13 win over the Cubs. The 22-year-old right-hander allowed seven hits, including a homer, but did not walk a batter. He struck out five.

Trevor Rosenthal pitched 1 2-3 innings for his 11th save. Rosenthal, who blew a save Tuesday, inherited a one-out, bases-loaded situation and gave up a

sacrifice fly, but closed out the inning and retired the side in the ninth.

The Cubs have lost nine of their last 11 and are off to the worst start in 39 games (13-26) since 2002.

Chicago starter Jason Hammel (4-2) gave up five runs on five hits and two walks in 5 1-3 innings, raising his ERA to 3.06. Hammel had six strikeouts.

**In other NL games it was**

St. Louis 5 Chicago Cubs 3; San Francisco 6, Florida 4; Milwaukee 4, Pittsburgh 3; NY Yankees 1, NY Mets 0; Cincinnati 5, San Diego 0, Game 1; and San Diego 6, Cincinnati 1, Game 2. □



AL Capsules

# Trout's 3-run walkoff HR downs Rays 6-5

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— Mike Trout greeted Brad Boxberger with a three-run walkoff homer to cap a four-run ninth inning and give the Los Angeles Angels a 6-5 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Thursday night in the opener of a four-game series.

Rays closer Grant Balfour came on in the ninth to try and protect a 5-2 lead for Erik Bedard, but walked his first two batters before giving up an RBI single by Collin Cowgill. Trout jumped on a 1-1 pitch from Boxberger (0-1) and drove it into the top tier of the double-decker bullpen in left field for his eighth homer.

Fernando Salas (3-0) pitched a perfect inning to get the victory.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia won two replay challenges with his team at bat. Both were against second base umpire Jim Reynolds on tag plays in the fifth and seventh innings, although the Angels didn't score in either inning.

TWINS 4, RED SOX 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Aaron Hicks delivered the game-winning single in the bottom of the 10th and Phil Hughes struck out eight in



Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout, (27), celebrates his three-run walk off home run against the Tampa Bay Rays on during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Thursday, May 15, 2014. Associated Press

six innings to help Minnesota beat Boston in the series finale.

All-Star closer Glen Perkins blew his second save of the season, giving up a two-run single to Will Middlebrooks with the bases loaded that tied the game in the ninth inning. But Kurt Suzuki doubled down the left field line and Hicks, who entered the day hitting .161, lined a 3-2 pitch to left field off of An-

drew Miller (1-2) to win it.

Mike Carp had two hits and an RBI for the Red Sox, but David Ortiz was a quiet 1 for 4 with a single after going deep twice in each of the first two games of the series. Hughes gave up five hits and no walks and Chris Parmelee hit a two-run homer for the Twins, who took two of three from the defending champions. Suzuki and Eduardo Escobar

each had three hits and Brian Duensing (1-1) picked up the win.

Clay Buchholz gave up three runs on 10 hits and struck out six in six innings for the Red Sox (20-20).

BLUE JAYS 4, INDIANS 2  
TORONTO (AP) — Edwin Encarnacion hit two home runs, Juan Francisco also connected and Toronto gave manager John Gibbons his 400th career win.

Encarnacion hit a solo homer in the second off Danny Salazar and added a two-run blast in the fifth off C.C. Lee. It was his second multihomer game of the season and the 13th of his career. Encarnacion finished 3 for 4, adding a double in the third.

Two batters after Encarnacion's homer in the second, Francisco also went deep off Salazar (1-4), who lost for the fourth time in seven starts.

David Murphy homered for the Indians, whose streak of series victories was snapped at three.

Blue Jays left-hander J.A. Happ allowed one run and six hits in a season-high six innings. Happ (2-1) walked two and struck out four.

ORIOLES 2, ROYALS 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Nelson Cruz homered and Baltimore snapped a four-game losing streak to remain first in the AL East.

Cruz homered in the fourth after Chris Davis drew a walk to lead off the inning. It was Cruz's 12th home run, which is second in the American League to the 15 of Chicago White Sox rookie Jose Abreu. Cruz's 35 RBIs are tied for second in the AL. □

## Nadal holds off strong Murray challenge in Rome

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Rafael Nadal stormed back from a surprisingly poor opening set to edge Andy Murray 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 Thursday and secure a spot in the Italian Open semifinals.

Murray jumped out to a 5-0 lead and won the first set in just 37 minutes with a dominant display, as the Wimbledon champion unleashed a series of winners from just about everywhere on the court.

But Nadal broke early in the second set and took control with a late break in the third to stay on course for his eighth title in Rome.

Still, it was the third consec-

utive match in which Nadal was pushed to three sets, leaving his clay-court form in question entering Roland Garros, which starts in nine days. And despite losing in the end, it was a positive performance for Murray, who is still trying to regain his top form following minor back surgery in September. Nadal's semifinal opponent will be Grigor Dimitrov, while Novak Djokovic and Milos Raonic will meet in the other half of the draw.

Djokovic is back on track after a right wrist injury sidelined him last week. And Serena Williams is cruising again, too, after being slowed by a left thigh problem. The second-ranked

Djokovic overcame a stiff challenge from David Ferrer before grinding out a 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 win and the top-ranked Williams then rolled past Zhang Shuai of China 6-1, 6-3 to stay on course in her title defense. Williams' semifinal opponent will be 2008 French Open champion Ana Ivanovic, who beat 13th-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

The other semifinal will pit local hope Sara Errani of Italy vs. 2007 and 2008 Rome champion Jelena Jankovic.

Errani took advantage of a supportive crowd to beat second-seeded Li Na 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 and reach the



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Spain's David Ferrer during their quarterfinal match at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Friday, May 16, 2014. Associated Press

semifinals for the second consecutive year, while Jankovic eliminated third-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 6-4.

Dimitrov celebrated his 23rd birthday with a win when 36-year-old Tommy Haas retired after losing the first set 6-2 due to a right

shoulder injury — spoiling a matchup between the youngest and oldest players in the top 20.

The big-serving Raonic held off Jeremy Chardy of France 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 on an overcast day with intermittent rain at the Foro Italico. □



## NBA Playoffs

## Pacers, Clippers progress to conference finals

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Indiana and Oklahoma City clinched series victories on Thursday to advance to a familiar-looking final four teams in the NBA playoffs. Indiana is back where it was last season — in the NBA Eastern Conference finals — after winning 93-80 at Washington to claim their series 4-2, while Oklahoma City won 104-98 at the Los Angeles Clippers to also win 4-2 and book their third Western Conference finals berth in four years. Awaiting those two teams are perennial powers Miami and San Antonio. David West scored 29 points in a see-sawing performance by the Pacers, who blew a 16-point second-half lead before pulling away late. Next up, a rematch with Miami in the East decider. Lance Stephenson added 17 points and eight assists for the Pacers, who earned a Game 1 at home against

the two-time defending NBA champions on Sunday. Indiana took Miami to seven games in the conference finals a year ago. Marcin Gortat scored 19 points, and John Wall had 12 points and nine assists for the Wizards, who ended their best playoff run in decades. Washington won a playoff series for the first time since 2005 and a second-round game for the first time since 1982. But the team was ultimately undone by an inability to win at home, going just 1-4 at the Verizon Center and 5-1 on the road in the playoffs. The Wizards appeared to have fixed their home-court demons when Bradley Beal stole a rebound then hit a 3-pointer at the other end to put the Wizards up 74-73 with 8½ minutes to play. But that was Washington's only lead of the second half. West answered with a pair of jumpers, including a tough fade-away, and Stephenson added a la-

yup to start a decisive 20-6 run that included three Wizards turnovers in four possessions. Washington went five minutes without a point and scored only two field goals after Beal's go-ahead 3. The Pacers were 46-13 on March 2 before limping to the end of the regular season, barely holding on to the conference's No. 1 seed. Things didn't look much better when Indy was pushed to seven games in the first round by eighth-seeded Atlanta, or when the Pacers lost Game 1 at home to the Wizards. But Hibbert revived himself in Game 2, the defense held the Wizards to 63 points in Game 3, and Paul George went off for 39 points in Game 4. The ugly Pacers returned in a 23-point beatdown at home in Game 5. But they pulled ahead early in the clincher by shooting 59 percent in the first half and holding the up-tempo Wizards without a



Indiana Pacers forward Paul George (24) drives past Washington Wizards forward Drew Gooden (90) during the second half in Game 6 of an Eastern Conference semifinal NBA basketball playoff series in Washington, Thursday, May 15, 2014.

Associated Press

## Clippers owner Sterling says he won't pay fine



In this Feb. 25, 2011, file photo, Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling looks on during the first half of their NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Lakers in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

ANNE M. PETERSON  
AP Sports Writer

Donald Sterling's lawyer has written the NBA stating

the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers does not intend to pay the \$2.5 million fine imposed by the league for racist comments, a person with knowledge of the letter's contents said. Sports Illustrated first reported the letter from Maxwell Blecher. The contents were confirmed by the person who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity. Blecher, a prominent antitrust attorney, acknowledged sending a letter but would not discuss its contents Friday. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver banned Sterling for life and imposed the fine following the release late last month of a recording in which Sterling makes racist remarks. Silver also called on owners to vote Sterling out of the league.□

fast-break point until the second half. Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant had 39 points and 16 rebounds to lead the Thunder to a come-from-behind victory at Los Angeles, ending a tumultuous season for the Clippers. Russell Westbrook overcame a slow start to finish with 19 points and 12 assists for the Thunder. Two days after Oklahoma City erased a late 13-point deficit to win Game 5, the Thunder rallied from an early 16-point deficit and maintained their lead throughout the fourth quarter, shaking off any memories of their Game 4 collapse. Chris Paul had 25 points and 11 assists, and Blake Griffin scored 22 points for the Clippers, who went through the playoffs with the distraction of team owner Donald Sterling being banned by the league and pressured into a sale of the franchise after the publicizing on an audio tape in which he made racially-charged comments.

Durant hit five 3-pointers and Reggie Jackson added 14 points for Oklahoma City, which will face the Spurs in a rematch of the West's last two champions. The series begins Monday in San Antonio. J.J. Redick scored 16 points for the Clippers, who followed their epic collapse in Game 5 with a disappointing second half at home. Despite a raucous home crowd, Los Angeles won't play for its first trip to a conference finals. The hosts were in control for most of the first three quarters. But the league MVP Durant kept the Thunder close and eventually ignited a 30-10 run stretching across the final two quarters. Westbrook, who didn't have a field goal until late in the third quarter, contributed 10 points in the fourth as the Thunder comfortably maintained their lead. Griffin fouled out with 2:27 left, but the Clippers got within four points in the final minute before Westbrook and Durant hit free throws to close it out.□



# Bouhanni wins 7th Giro stage; Matthews keeps lead



**Nacer Bouhanni of France celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the seventh stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, from Frosinone to Foligno, Italy, Friday May 16, 2014.**

Associated Press

**FOLIGNO, Italy (AP)** — Nacer Bouhanni of France sprinted to victory on the seventh stage of the Giro d'Italia on Friday, while Michael Matthews retained the overall leader's pink jersey. Bouhanni, who had never won a Grand Tour stage before this year's Giro, edged out Giacomo Nizzolo by less than half a wheel for his second victory in four days. Luka Mezgec was third, just ahead of Matthews, on another lengthy leg that had two categorized climbs along the 211 kilometers (131 miles) from Frosinone to Foligno. "It's great to win a second stage. I'm happy for me

and for the team. They did an incredible job to keep me out of the wind and then to close the gap on the break," Bouhanni said. "Mezgec launched the sprint, I was on his wheel. I saw that Matthews and Nizzolo were going on his left. I didn't have a choice, I had to go on his right, along the barriers. Thankfully he didn't move off his line because if he had done I would have crashed for sure." Matthews will wear the pink jersey for a sixth day, with the Australian cyclist maintaining his 21-second lead over compatriot Cadel Evans. Rigoberto Uran remained third. "It was a bit different to

what it looked like on paper, more technical than we originally thought," Matthews said. "The boys put me in the right position for the final sprint but I didn't have the legs to get in front of Bouhanni after yesterday. But it was another great day for the team." Orica-GreenEdge riders have worn the pink jersey since the team won the time trial on the opening day. Pre-race favorite Joaquim Rodriguez withdrew along with his Katusha teammates Giampaolo Caruso and Angel Vicioso after crashing Thursday. Brett Lancaster also retired before the stage, while

Maxime Mederel and Ramon Carretero quit during Friday's ride, leaving 188 riders still in the race. Of those who were able to continue, five cyclists escaped close to the summit of the first climb. The early break of Robinson Chalapud, Nathan Haas, Winner Anacona, Bjorn Thurau and Nicola Boem built up a lead of nine minutes. That lead still stood at five minutes going up the final ascent and it appeared as if the others had left it too late to catch up. However, the peloton upped its pace and began chasing furiously on the final descent as the gap began to drop dramatically. The breakaway riders were

caught on the fast run-in to Foligno, 3K (1.9 miles) from the finish. Tyler Farrar of the United States recovered from a flat tire to power back to the peloton from a long way back, and eventually finished sixth. This year's Giro honors the 10th anniversary of Marco Pantani's death, and Saturday's stage from Foligno to Montecopiolo will include the Carpegna climb where the famous Italian cyclist used to train. Pantani won both the Giro and Tour de France in 1998. He was found dead in a hotel room on Valentine's Day in 2004, and a coroner ruled he died from cocaine poisoning. □



# Tech companies sue over Michael Jackson hologram

**ANTHONY McCARTNEY**  
AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The owners of technology used to digitally resurrect Tupac Shakur have asked a federal judge to block the use of their techniques in any effort to project a Michael Jackson hologram at Sunday's Billboard Music Awards.

Hologram USA Inc. and Musion Das Hologram Ltd. sued Jackson's estate and producers of the awards show Thursday in a federal court in an attempt to block any appearance of a Jackson hologram at Sunday's ceremony.

A hearing on their emergency restraining order request has been scheduled for Friday afternoon in a Las Vegas court.

Show producers have not confirmed that a Jackson hologram will appear at the show, but they have

promised a history-making performance by Jackson. The segment at Las Vegas' MGM Grand Garden Arena will be used to promote the singer's latest posthumous album, "Xscape."

Howard Weitzman, an attorney for Jackson's estate, wrote in a statement that the lawsuit was baseless.

He said the filing was a stunt by businessman Alki David, owner of Hologram USA, who hosted an event this year and claimed to reveal a secret son of Jackson.

"It is ludicrous," Weitzman wrote in the statement. "There is no merit to his claim."

Show producers Dick Clark Productions did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Hologram USA and Musion own patents to technology that creates 3-D images and projects them on stage to appear as if

they're alongside live performers.

The digital Shakur hologram was a sensation at the 2012 Coachella music festival, and according to the lawsuit it was created using a product called Musion Eyeliner.

The companies say Musion Eyeliner has been used without authorization by a competitor to create a segment that depicts Jackson performing a new song, "Slave to the Rhythm," at Sunday's awards show.

Hologram USA obtained the rights to the patents after the bankruptcy of Florida effects house Digital Domain, which created the Shakur performance. Thursday's lawsuit also names Atlanta-based Pulse Entertainment Inc., whose CEO is the former head of Digital Domain, according to the complaint. Pulse is accused of using the hologram techniques without a



In this Feb. 24, 1988 file photo, Michael Jackson leans, points and sings, dances and struts during the opening performance of his 13-city U.S. tour, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

proper license.

Phone and email messages left for Pulse Entertainment were not immediately returned.

In March, Hologram USA sued Cirque du Soleil and MGM Resorts International over its show, "Michael Jackson ONE" at Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino. The show features a perfor-

mance by a digital rendition of Jackson, which the company also contends is an unlicensed use of its technology.

The case is being handled in a Los Angeles federal court and Cirque du Soleil and MGM Resorts have been granted an extension until May 23 to respond to the lawsuit. □

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# Darden to sell Red Lobster for \$2.1 billion

MICHAEL J. de la MERCED  
© 2014 New York Times

Darden Restaurants agreed Friday to sell Red Lobster, the seafood restaurant chain that formed the beginnings of its dining empire, to the private equity firm Golden Gate Capital for \$2.1 billion in cash.

The move comes five months after Darden announced that it planned to spin off Red Lobster, while it continues to face pressure from activist hedge funds concerned about the divestiture of the brand.

One of these investors, Starboard Value, warned the restaurateur this week not to sell the chain before a special meeting called by shareholders to discuss such a move. The meeting has yet to be scheduled. Both Starboard and the other firm, Barington Capital, have argued that

Darden should consider a more extensive break-up plan.

But Darden argued Friday that the sale of Red Lobster would provide the company with \$1.6 billion in net cash immediately. About \$1 billion of that will go toward paying down debt, while the remainder will help finance a new stock buyback program of up to \$700 million.

And the sale will allow the company to focus on its remaining brands, particularly its core Olive Garden chain.

"By enabling us to bolster the company's financial foundation and increase our focus on the Olive Garden brand renaissance program, we believe this agreement addresses key issues that our shareholders have raised, including the need to preserve the company's dividend and



The exterior of Red Lobster at Times Square in New York. Darden Restaurants agreed on Friday to sell Red Lobster to the private equity firm Golden Gate Capital for \$2.1 billion in cash — despite a public warning by investor Starboard Value to wait until shareholders discussed the move.

(Hiroko Masuie/The New York Times)

regain momentum at Olive Garden," Clarence Otis, Darden's chief executive, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Golden Gate has extensive experience in the restaurant industry, with holdings like California

Pizza Kitchen.

Darden said that the deal was not subject to a shareholder vote. □

## Rise in US consumer debt suggests growing confidence

FLOYD NORRIS

© 2014 New York Times

Consumers appear to be growing more confident

and are less likely to be behind on their bills, according to figures released this week by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Using figures from Equifax, one of the major credit reporting companies, the

New York Fed estimated that consumers owed \$8.69 trillion in mortgage debt at the end of the first quarter, 2 percent more than they owed a year earlier. That figure includes both first mortgages and home equity loans. It was the first year-over-year increase since 2008.

That amount remains 13 percent lower than the \$9.99 trillion peak that Equifax estimated consumers owed at the end of the third quarter of 2008. As many Americans defaulted on mortgages and lost their homes during the financial crisis, the amount of outstanding mortgage debt declined. There was also a sharp decline in new mortgages as fewer homes were sold.

The New York Fed report also indicated that the proportion of all four major categories of consumer debt that was seriously delinquent — behind by at least 90 days in payment — declined during the quarter. Only 8.5 percent of credit card loans were in that category at the end of the first quarter, a figure that was lower than at any

point previously recorded in the data, which goes back to 2003. The serious delinquency rate on student loans fell to 11 percent from 11.5 percent, but remained higher than the rate for any other category.

Despite the small increase in overall mortgages outstanding, the New York Fed reported that young adults "continued to retreat from the housing market," as three Fed researchers, Meta Brown, Sydnee Caldwell and Sarah Sutherland, put it in a blog post as the report was released.

The data indicated that in 2013, the proportion of adults age 27 to 30 with home mortgage debt continued to decline, falling to 21.6 percent among those with student loans outstanding, and 22.3 percent of those with no such loans. Before 2012, young adults with student loans were more likely to have purchased homes than were those without such debt. That was taken as an indication that such people were more likely to be college graduates, with better-paying jobs. □

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# Stock market manages slight gain after choppy day

**MATTHEW CRAFT**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Better results from retailers and demand for telecommunications shares market helped push the stock market to a small gain on Friday. Telecoms rose the most among the 10 industries in the Standard & Poor's 500 index. Their jump followed news that Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway made a new investment in Verizon Communications. Other big-name investors, including John Paulson, also reportedly took stakes. Verizon climbed \$1.11, or 2 percent, to \$49.07. Major indexes spent much of the day meandering around the breakeven mark. Stocks started higher at the open but reversed course after a report on consumer confidence showed a drop last month. The market took a sudden turn up in the last hour of trading, turning minor losses into minor gains. "We've had a lot of starts and stops recently," said Dan Cook, a director at Nadex, an exchange in Chicago. "We're at high

levels, so it's a time to be cautious." The S&P 500 index gained 7.01 points, or 0.4 percent, to close at 1,877.86. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 44.50 points, or 0.3 percent, to end at 16,491.31. The Nasdaq composite index rose 21.30 points, or 0.5 percent, to finish at 4,090.59. Investors said the choppy trading reflects a larger uncertainty. The stock market is trading near record highs, but investors see little reason for excitement. Earlier in the week, the S&P 500 index notched all-time highs two days in a row. On Thursday, mixed economic news and a weak earnings report from Wal-Mart Stores drove the market to its worst day in more than a month. Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist at Wells Capital Management in Minneapolis, said traders who hunt for patterns in the market's moves have spotted some warning signs worth noting. For instance, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note recently dropped to its lowest point this year. That's



Trader Ryan Falvey, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Friday, May 16, 2014. Better results from retailers and demand for telecommunications shares market helped push the stock market to a small gain on Friday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

usually a sign of an economic slowdown. "But most of the economic reports are coming in better than people thought," Paulsen said. "If you only paid attention to the bond market over the past few

years, you'd think the world was going to end. Not the stock market. Which one was right?" Before the market opened Friday, the government reported that builders started work on more houses in

April, as U.S. construction surged to its highest pace in six months. Nearly all of that increase, however, came from new apartment buildings, a sign that Americans are still struggling to buy single-family homes. □

## Abbott to spend \$2.9B for Latin American drugmaker

**NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. (AP)** — Abbott Laboratories will spend about \$2.9 billion to broaden its reach in Latin America with the acquisition of branded generic drugmaker CFR Pharmaceuticals. Abbott makes infant formula like Similac as well as medical devices and drugs. The North Chicago, Illinois, company said Friday the deal will expand its presence in several fast-growing markets, especially with branded generic drugs. An Abbott spokesman said generic drugs with brand names are preferred in many developing markets due to their reputation for quality and consistent supply. CFR Pharmaceuticals, which is based in Chile, sells more than 1,000 products in 15 Latin American mar-

kets. Abbott expects the deal to add about \$900 million in revenue in 2015, the first full year after it is completed. Abbott will buy the holding company that indirectly owns about 73 percent of CFR and then will conduct a cash tender offer for the remaining shares. The deal value tops \$3 billion when counting about \$430 million in debt. Abbott will use cash to pay for the deal, which will have no impact on its 2014 earnings forecast. The drugmaker expects to close the acquisition by the end of the third quarter. Shares of Abbott closed at \$39.24 on Thursday, which puts them up about 2 percent so far this year. The stock had advanced 31 cents to \$39.55 Friday in early trading. □

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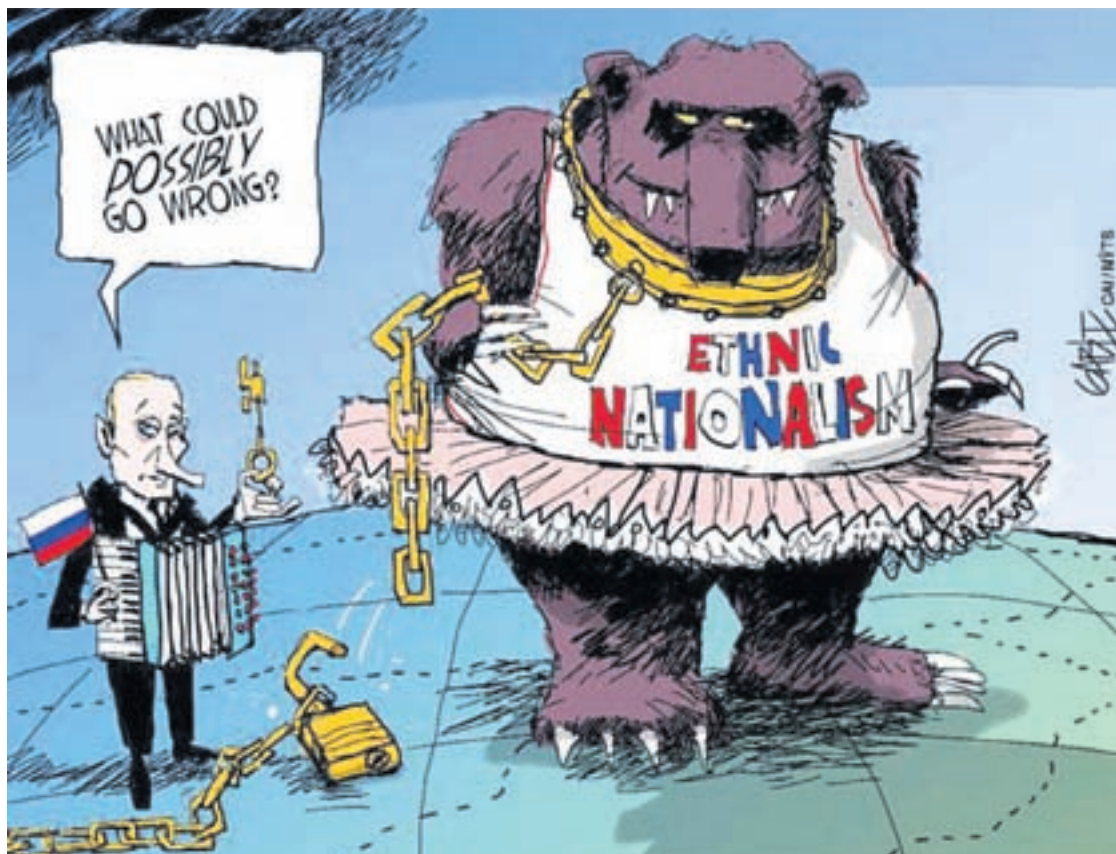
## The Speaker's Sand Trap



MAUREEN DOWD  
© 2014 New York Times

The Speaker is hitting the links. "This is a Tee Party I can live with," he grins, as he puts a tee emblazoned with "Speaker Boehner" into the turf. The GOP's Dean Martin is on the road, making a ring-a-ding and ka-ching tour to rake in the moolah to ensure that Republicans keep the House in November and he keeps his job. "That was a real humdinger this week when I told those folks in San Antonio that I'm living on borrowed time," he tells the other members of his foursome, who have ponied up big bucks to play 18 with the Speaker. "The way I enjoy my Camels and cocktails, I guess I should have been happy to make it to 50, much less 65," he chuckles. "But I didn't expect such a big hubbub. Now that I've cheated death by Tea Party, I was taking a moment to ponder my mortality." He gives his playing partners a sly look. "As you know, I've taken steps to guarantee my position and the party's by teeing up that Benghazi committee, just like I teed up that Titleist. Talk about a sand trap. "Every time I hear the word Benghazi, I think of Ben Gazzara, that great actor back in the '60s with the nice tan. He could play me in the movie. Is he still around?" "And what kinda name is Trey Gowdy? Is he any relation to Curt Gowdy, that old sports announcer? He must be because he hasn't been off TV since I made him chairman of the House Select Committee to Keep Republicans in Power and Harass Hillary Clinton. The guy won't shut up about how we're not going to raise money off the four dead Americans, even while we're busy raising money off the four dead Americans. "By the way, I'm no Hillary fan. But if Karl Rove thinks pushing the notion that Hillary's concussion made her cuckoo is a good idea, then he's the one with brain damage. How did he survive wasting all that donor money and not winning anything in the last election anyhow?" As Boehner savors a 210-yard shot, his voice drops into a confidential growl. "I was reluctant to set up this committee because I know how

our wackos can cause a backlash, but I was starting to worry that health care wasn't gonna be enough to get us over the top in November," he confides. "And I don't mind sticking it to Obama when he continues to be so insensitive about my skin color. His stupid joke at the White House Correspondents' Dinner about me, 'Orange is the new black.' Well, he's gonna be black and blue after we grill him and his team on what he was really doing in the White House that night during the attacks on the compound. "If he was watching SportsCenter instead of sitting in the Command Center, that's not gonna look good. If he was buttering up Bibi to help him with the Jewish vote, that's not gonna look good. If he was catching some zzz's during Benghazzi, that's bad. Of course, he already seems asleep at the switch most of the time. All he does is blame us because he can't get anything done. "Does he think we're just gonna cuddle with him?" After he and his group head down the fairway, Boehner takes a swig of merlot from his monogrammed silver "JAB" flask and climbs out of his cart. Eyeing his approach, he muses: "I wouldn't mind working with the president on one thing - this damn immigration mess. If we don't do something to appeal to Hispanics, we are going to be nowhere as a party in a decade. But there's nothing I can say to make my guys do it. "Maybe throwing a bone to the kooks on Benghazi will buy me some room to maneuver on immigration. Some of these goofballs will be so focused on Benghazi, we can just throw a bill on the floor and pass it before they even know what's happening. We faked them out that way on the Doc Fix Medicare legislation. Har, har. The ayes have it." Hitting his second shot into a deep sand trap in front of the green, Boehner gives the same exaggerated grimace he did ridiculing his own members recently on immigration reform. "Damn sand traps," he mutters. "At least if all these alarmist reports on climate change turn out to be true, the sand traps will just be water hazards. If Marco Rubio's wrong pooh-poohing climate change, he's gonna be playing a lot of Marco Polo when Miami's underwater." The Speaker hits out of the trap and lands his ball about 20 feet from the cup. "Marco is not even the best candidate from Florida," Boehner says. "I've been talking to my man Jeb about getting in. Enough with all these rabid fruit-loops. Jeb's my kind of Republican - normal." Boehner putts and misses his 20-footer for par. "Did you notice that broke way too much to the right?" he sighs. "That's our problem." □



## My State's Prettier Than Yours



GAIL COLLINS  
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Our topic for today is state tourism slogans. Perhaps that's not what you had in mind. Perhaps you are from North Dakota ("Legendary") or North Carolina ("Beauty Amplified") and are already so self-satisfied you see no reason to worry about the subject at all. But this is actually a deeply political matter. After all, it's the states' wildly different self-images and sense of specialness that makes places like Congress so interesting. Consider Texas, which is currently bragging "It's Like a Whole Other Country." This is not the slogan of a place that prides itself on the ability to get along with others. Neither is Montana's "Get Lost." This is actually supposed to be an invitation to come, not leave. But at best, it conjures up visions of helicopters and search dogs. Like many states, Montana plays around with several slogans. One of its newest, "Step Out of Bounds," sounds a bit like a suggestion to walk off a cliff. On the opposite side we have Washington ("Washington: The State"). These people definitely regard themselves as part of the group. It's sad that states no longer like to identify themselves with agricultural production, which always had a nice touch of down-to-earth practicality. Wisconsin has never been the same since it stopped being "America's Dairyland" and rejected efforts by en-

thusiasts to adopt "Eat Cheese or Die." While the state's tourism website currently urges viewers to "Turn Up the Fun," a spokeswoman denied that it now has any official marketing pitch whatsoever. For a long and glorious time, Idaho's slogan was "Great Potatoes. Tasty Destinations." But I am sorry to say that the state has moved on and is now going with "Idaho: Adventures in Living." Diane Norton, the Idaho tourism manager, said the state's new sales pitch "was developed using attitude research which revealed that Idaho is viewed as being 'an adventure' in and of itself." Well yeah, when you hire people to do a marketing survey, they are not going to come back with a root vegetable. Honestly, I'm not sure how useful brand research is in these cases. The consultants almost always report that their focus groups determined that the state's most salient point is the great scenery. Or, in the case where there isn't any scenery, the people. Except New Mexico, where a focus group reportedly once described the state as boring and, on the positive side, "close to Arizona." Who knew? Actually these days many Americans' perception of the state is probably based on the series "Breaking Bad." Perhaps the slogan should be: "Something's Cooking in New Mexico, and It's Not Actually Meth." Instead, they came up with "New Mexico True." Honestly. Connecticut is trying the historic route with a new tourism slogan ("Connecticut: Still Revolutionary"). This is something of a comeback attempt after the troubled "Connecticut: Full of Surprises" era, during which then-Gov. Jodi Rell failed to pay the state's dues to a regional tourism-promotion group. Imagine everyone's surprise when they woke up and discovered that Connecticut had been wiped off the map in the Discover New England website. "There was no Connecticut there. We actually got kicked out of

New England," said Colin McEnroe, a Connecticut radio host and Hartford Courant columnist. Connecticut's problems stem in part from the fact that "Connecticut" is hard to put in a jingle. Think about it. If you want to refer to somebody as a Connecticut resident, the only noun you can use is "Nutmegger." As part of the "Still Revolutionary" campaign, now-Gov. Dan Malloy's administration unveiled a new song, "Better With You," which McEnroe said was notable mainly for never mentioning the state's name. Every single state believes that it is meant to be a tourist destination. Nebraska, for instance, insists that tourism is its "third largest earner of revenue from outside the state," although given the fact that it lists the first two as "agriculture and manufacturing" there really aren't a whole lot of options left. Its marketing pitch used to be "Possibilities . Endless," which is not to be confused with Delaware's "Endless Discoveries." Then this month the Nebraska Tourism Commission unveiled "Nebraska Nice." A spokesman announced that brand research had determined that "one of Nebraska's strongest assets is our people." The "Nice" campaign irked Iowans, who resented the idea that Nebraska was trying to corral the humble politeness franchise. ("Nebraska: Nice Try" read a new Iowa T-shirt.) And they have a point. Nebraska should try to market something that it and it alone can lay claim to. I vote for "Visit Nebraska: We Have a Unicameral State Legislature." I'm sorry to say that I have never been to Nebraska. Long ago, during the Clinton administration, I wrote something about the state's Sen. Bob Kerrey that ticked off his press office, and I was informed that I was barred from Nebraska forever. I mentioned this once a few years ago, and someone from the office of Kerry's successor, Sen. Ben Nelson, informed me that the ban was revoked. Which did seem extremely nice. □



# Pope's trip to Holy Land stirs diplomatic dilemmas

DANIEL ESTRIN  
DANIELA BERRETTA  
Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — When Pope Francis sets foot in the Holy Land next week, he'll be treading on diplomatic eggshells at virtually every stop.

Israeli-Palestinian politics are just one of the many sensitive issues Vatican officials are navigating. Other sore points are incidents of anti-Christian vandalism in Israel, lingering tensions between the Holy See and the Jewish community, historic disputes with rival Christian denominations and closed-door real estate negotiations with Israel.

"This is the Holy Land. It's complicated," said Hana Bendowsky of the Jerusalem Center for Jewish-Christian Relations, an interfaith group.

Vandals in Israel have recently scribbled anti-Christian graffiti on several Christian holy sites and properties. Israel's internal security agency says it fears there could be more such attacks, and local Vatican officials have urged Israel to safeguard Christian holy sites ahead of the pope's visit.

The vandalism "poisons the atmosphere of coexistence" surrounding the pope's visit, said Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal, the top Roman Catholic clergyman in the Holy Land.

Every stop on Francis' itinerary carries symbolic weight and tiptoes around political sensitivities.

The pope will first spend half a day in Jordan on May 24, visiting the traditional site of Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River, before arriving in the West Bank to meet Palestinian leaders and celebrate Mass in Bethlehem, near the traditional site of Jesus' birth.

Instead of a quick 10-minute drive from Bethlehem to neighboring Jerusalem, the pope will fly by helicopter 28 miles (45 kilometers) to an official welcoming ceremony at Israel's international Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. He then flies back to Jerusalem to meet



With the Bahai gardens in the background, Israeli Arab Christian worshipers attend a parade march from St. Joseph Church for the annual procession that is held in honor of Lady of Carmel in Haifa, Israel. Israel's internal security agency said it fears there could be more anti-Christian vandalism attacks, and local Vatican officials have urged Israel to safeguard Christian holy sites ahead of the Pope Francis' visit at the end of the month.

(AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

Israeli leaders and visit holy sites and Israel's Holocaust memorial.

The zigzag takes into account Jerusalem's disputed status. Israel claims the city as its undivided capital but its control of east Jerusalem, captured in 1967, is not internationally recognized. The Rev. David Neuhaus, a church official in Jerusalem, and an Israeli official said the airport welcome is standard protocol for visiting world leaders. The Israeli official spoke on condition of anonymity

because he was not authorized to talk to media about the preparations for pope's visit.

Some of Francis' planned stops could cause discomfort in Israel.

In Bethlehem, the Argentine pontiff will visit the Deheishe refugee camp, home to Palestinians who fled or were driven from their homes in the 1948 war surrounding the establishment of Israel. Palestinian officials are eager for Francis to see the impoverished camp and hear Palestinian

grievances against Israel. "The pope will see the reality," said Xavier Abu Eid, a Palestinian official helping coordinate the papal visit. Also, the pontiff will meet with the top Muslim cleric in Jerusalem, the grand mufti, at the Holy Land's most politically sensitive religious site — the Old City compound revered by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and by Jews as the Temple Mount. □

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# Ancient skeleton shedding light on first Americans

**MALCOLM RITTER**  
**AP Science Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Thousands of years ago, a teenage girl toppled into a deep hole in a Mexican cave and died. Now, her skeleton and her DNA are helping scientists study the origins of the first Americans. Their research bolsters the idea that those pioneers arrived from Asia by way of a land bridge that has long since disappeared, according to an analysis released Thursday by the journal Science.

The girl's nearly complete skeleton was discovered by chance in 2007 by expert divers who were mapping water-filled caves north of the city of Tulum, in the eastern part of the Yucatan Peninsula. One day, they came across a huge chamber deep underground.

"The moment we entered inside, we knew it was an incredible place," one of the divers, Alberto Nava, told reporters. "The floor disappeared under us and we could not see across to the other side." They named it Hoyo Negro, or black hole.

Months later, they returned and reached the floor of the 100-foot (30-meter) tall chamber, which was littered with animal bones. They came across the girl's skull on a ledge, lying upside



In this June 2013 photo provided by National Geographic, diver Susan Bird, working at the bottom of Hoyo Negro, a large dome-shaped underwater cave in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, brushes a human skull found at the site while her team members take detailed photographs.

Associated Press

down "with a perfect set of teeth and dark eye sockets looking back at us," Nava said.

The divers named the skeleton Naia, after a water nymph of Greek mythology, and joined up with a team of scientists to research the find.

The girl was 15 or 16 when she met her fate in a cave, which at that time was dry, researchers said. She may have been looking for water when she tumbled into the chamber some 12,000 or 13,000 years ago, said lead study author James Chatters of Applied

Paleoscience, a consulting firm in Bothell, Washington. Her pelvis was broken, suggesting she had fallen a long distance, he said.

The analysis of her remains, reported by scientists in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Denmark, addresses a puzzle about the settling of the Americas. Most scientists say the first Americans came from Siberian ancestors who lived on an ancient land bridge, now submerged, that connected Asia to Alaska across the Bering Strait. They are thought to have entered the Americas sometime after 17,000 years ago from that land mass, called Beringia. And genetic evidence indicates that today's native peoples of the Americas are related to these pioneers.

But the oldest skeletons from the Americas — including Naia's — have

skulls that look much different from those of today's native peoples. To some researchers, that suggests the first Americans came from a different place.

Naia provides a crucial link. DNA recovered from a molar contains a distinctive marker found in today's native peoples, especially those in Chile and Argentina. The genetic signature is thought to have arisen among people living in Beringia, researchers said.

That suggests that the early Americans and contemporary native populations both came from the same ancestral roots in Beringia — not different places, the researchers concluded. The anatomical differences apparently reflect evolution over time in Beringia or the Americas, they said.

The finding does not rule out the idea that some ancient settlers came from another place, noted Deborah Bolnick, a study author from the University of Texas at Austin.

Dennis O'Rourke, an expert in ancient DNA at the University of Utah who didn't participate in the work, said the finding is the first to show a genetic link to Beringia in an individual who clearly had the anatomical signs of a very early American. He said he considered the notion of multiple migrations from different places to be "quite unlikely."

Last February, other researchers reported that DNA from a baby buried in Montana more than 12,000 years ago showed a close genetic relationship to modern-day native peoples, especially those in Central and South America. An author of that study, Mike Waters of Texas A&M University, said the Mexican finding fits with the one in Montana.

There are so few such early skeletons from the Americas, he said, that "every single one of them is important."

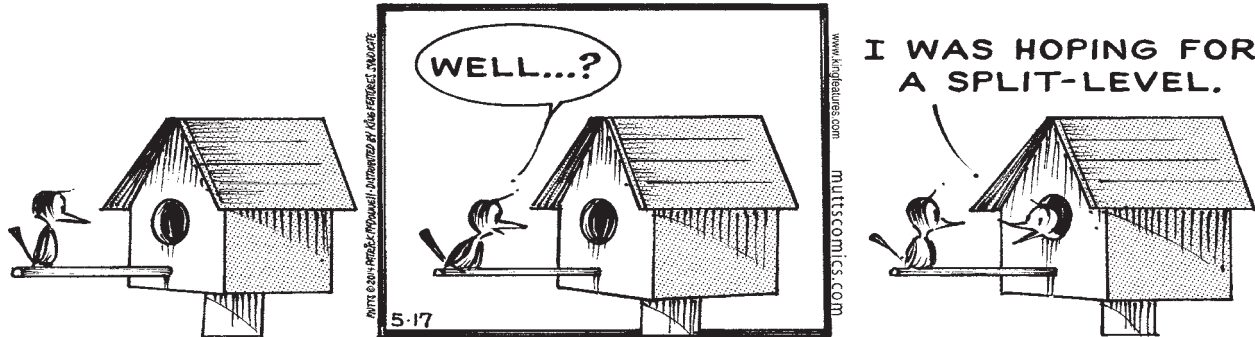
However, Richard Jantz, a retired professor of forensic anthropology at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, said he still believes early settlers arrived by boat from east Asia before any migration occurred via Beringia. That's based on anatomical evidence, he said. The argument in the new paper "leaves a lot of unanswered questions," he said in an email. □

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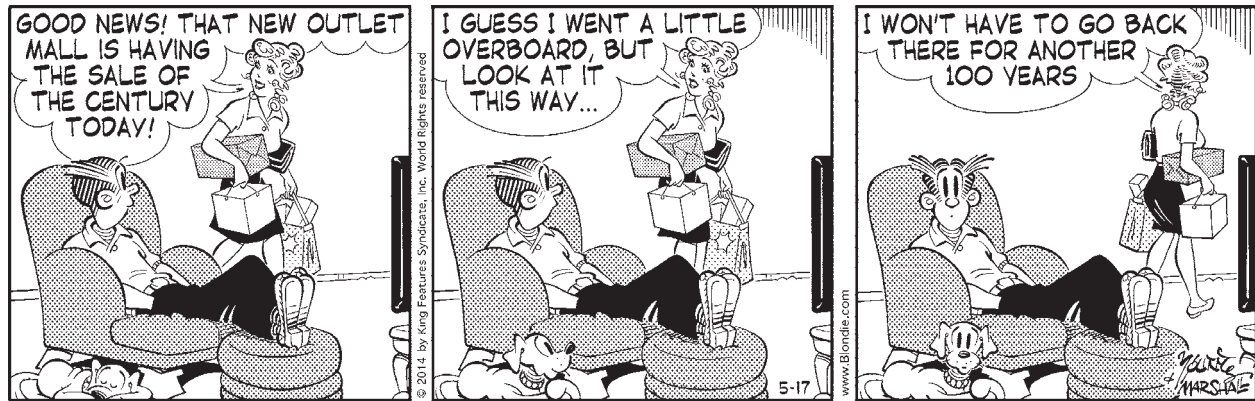
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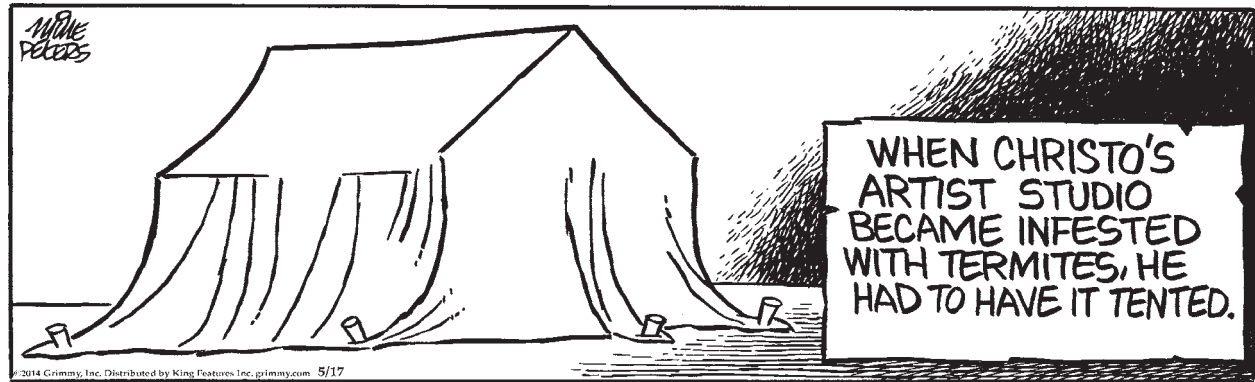
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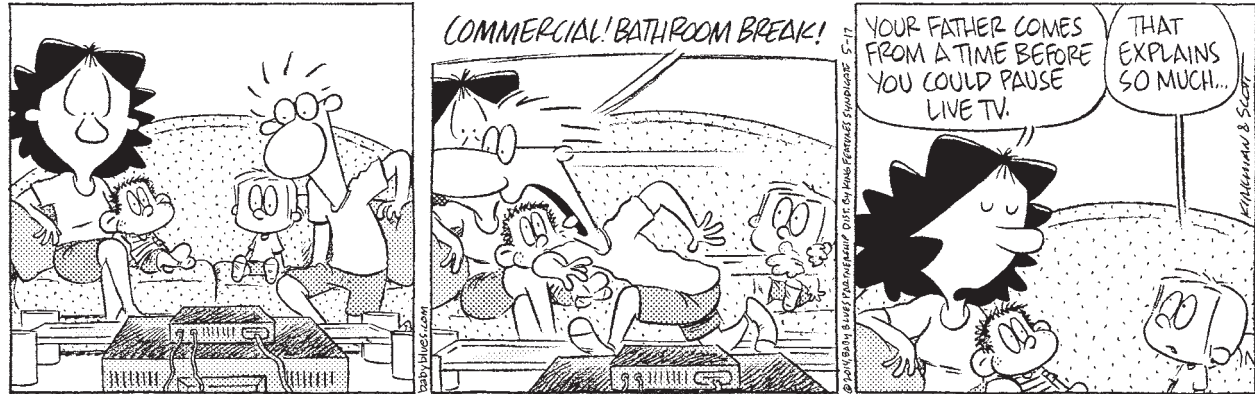
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		6		7		1		
		3						
5	4			1				8
			4	6	8			
7		2				4		3
			7	3	2			
9				8			7	4
						6		
		1		5		2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	7	3	5	4	8	1	6	2
6	4	1	9	3	2	8	5	7
8	2	5	7	1	6	4	9	3
2	1	7	6	9	4	5	3	8
4	5	8	1	2	3	6	7	9
3	6	9	8	5	7	2	4	1
1	3	4	2	7	5	9	8	6
7	9	6	4	8	1	3	2	5
5	8	2	3	6	9	7	1	4

ACROSS

- 1 However
- 4 Frozen waffles
- 9 "Sesame Street" fellow
- 13 \_\_\_ out a living; barely got by
- 15 Wynonna's mom
- 16 Lunchtime
- 17 Late Amaz
- 18 Prim; no-nonsense
- 19 Saga
- 20 Oscar or Emmy
- 22 Chances
- 23 Fibs
- 24 Delaney or Kardashian
- 26 Go skyward
- 29 Tibia
- 34 Tangy
- 35 Loose, as a rope
- 36 Flour container
- 37 "W" on a lightbulb
- 38 Glowing particle
- 39 Pay attention to
- 40 Hardware store chain
- 41 Pass out
- 42 Poet Kilmer
- 43 Baby bird
- 45 Wakened
- 46 Actor Brynner
- 47 Supervisor
- 48 Smack
- 51 Weatherman's instrument
- 56 Too \_\_\_; excessively
- 57 Body of water
- 58 Kiln
- 60 Hawaiian island
- 61 Agassi of tennis
- 62 Bedtime on a school night, perhaps
- 63 Fellows
- 64 One of the Roosevelts
- 65 Building site

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17				18						19			
	20			21						22			
			23					24	25				
26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33	
34					35					36			
37					38					39			
40				41						42			
43			44					45					
							46			47			
48	49	50			51	52	53				54	55	
56					57					58		59	
60					61					62			
63					64					65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/17/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

FUSS	SKATE	ACME
ONTO	INLAW	LAI
ODES	COMPELLING	
LOP	JIBS	HONEY
	FOALS	TAU
FLABBY	JESTER	
LUTES	MOOLA	GUM
ACHY	TOWEL	LOBO
PIE	LIONS	RACER
	DREAMS	DETEST
	DUE	HELEN
SPRIG	EASY	THY
TOOTH	PASTE	AREA
ALSO	UPPER	SIAM
BEER	TRYST	ACTS

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5/17/14

- 39 Largest city in Texas
- 41 \_\_\_ shot; annual injection
- 42 San \_\_, CA
- 44 Disease spread by lice or fleas
- 45 Candidate Mitt Romney
- 47 Two-by-four
- 48 Air pollution
- 49 Hawaiian feast
- 50 Sore
- 52 Zits
- 53 Late actor Fox
- 54 Wicked
- 55 City in Nevada
- 59 Badminton court divider

DOWN

- 1 Sleeper's place



# Rare footage shows 'brave struggle' of FDR walking



In this image taken from film shot by former Major League Baseball player Jimmie DeShong and acquired by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, center right, walks to his seat with the aid of an assistant at the Major League Baseball All-Star game on July 7, 1937 at Griffith Stadium in Washington.

Associated Press

PETER JACKSON  
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania

(AP) — Rare film footage featuring President Franklin D. Roosevelt walking to his seat at a baseball game helps dispel the myth that he tried to hide his disability and shows the courage it took to go about his daily life, experts said Friday. The clip shows FDR, who was paralyzed from the waist down by polio in 1921, grasping a rail with one hand while being supported on the other side by an assistant. FDR used a wheelchair because he could walk only with braces on his legs and the support of a cane.

"Here is FDR going to a stadium full of people," said Bob Clark, deputy director of FDR's Presidential Library and Museum. "Even the simple act of going to a baseball game required a

great deal of logistics and preparation."

Former Major League Baseball player Jimmie DeShong shot the film at the 1937 All-Star game in Washington. On Thursday, the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg announced it had acquired the clip from the family of DeShong.

DeShong's daughter Judy Savastio said she showed the clip to officials at the FDR library in Hyde Park, New York, about two years ago. She allowed the footage to be used in a montage that has been on view at the museum for about a year.

"I was very surprised that they were so excited about it," Savastio said Friday. Filmmaker Ken Burns calls the footage "one of the very best pieces of film that so clearly shows what a brave struggle it was for

FDR to move." Burns plans to incorporate it into his upcoming documentary on the Roosevelts, which is slated to air on PBS this fall. The footage is rare in part because not many people had personal movie cameras in those days. The press generally did not film FDR struggling to move under his own power, as the Secret Service did not want to publicize the president's vulnerability, according to historians. The lack of historical imagery gives the

impression that Roosevelt actively concealed his paralysis. But experts say he tried to minimize it to make the public more comfortable and to ensure that other nations didn't view him as a weak leader. "Thousands of people saw him walk like that quite frequently, in person. That was no secret at all," said Ray Begovich, a journalism professor at Franklin College near Indianapolis who has researched Roosevelt's public image. "Americans

knew he had polio, that he was sick and that he struggled, but they just did not know the extent of his disability."

The FDR snippet is about eight seconds of DeShong's silent footage, which overall is nearly five minutes long.

The rest of the film, shot with an 8 millimeter camera at Griffith Stadium, features a slew of baseball players, including Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, Hank Greenberg and Dizzy Dean. □

## Florence official: Kardashian, Kanye West to wed May 24



A view of Forte Belvedere in Florence, Italy, Friday, May 16, 2014.

Associated Press

NICOLE WINFIELD  
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Kim Kardashian and Kanye West will wed and host a reception at Florence's imposing 16th-century Belvedere Fort on May 24, a spokeswoman at the Florence mayor's office said Friday. The couple rented the fort, located next to Florence's famed Boboli Gardens, for 300,000 euros (\$410,000) and a Protestant minister will preside over the ceremony, spokeswoman Elisa Di Lupo told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

Belvedere Fort was built in 1590, believed using plans by Don Giovanni de' Medici. Located near the Arno River, it offers a panoramic view of Florence and the surrounding Tuscan hills.

The 36-year-old rapper proposed to the reality star on her 33rd birthday in October 2013, renting out San Francisco's AT&T Park for the occasion.

This is the first marriage for West, who was previously engaged to designer Alexis Phifer. It's the third trip down the aisle for Kardashian. She was wed to music producer Damon Thomas from 2000 to 2003, and spent 72 days married to professional basketball player Kris Humphries in 2011 after tying the knot in in a lavish ceremony broadcast as a two-part TV special.

The couple was featured on the cover of Vogue magazine's April issue, with Kardashian wearing a wedding-style dress.

There has been no explicit confirmation from either Kardashian or West about the wedding. In an email Thursday to AP, Kardashian representative Ina Trecio-kas said she wasn't able to comment on reports about the nuptials.

But in an interview with Florence's La Nazione newspaper published Friday, West extolled the beauty

of Florence and spoke of the event. Asked if he was excited about May 24, he said, "Very excited. But very happy."

West said he and Kardashian had come to Florence incognito and believed that their daughter, North, born in June 2013, was conceived "among the Renaissance masterpieces."

"It was our first honeymoon," he said of that visit. "It's one of the most beautiful cities of the world, for me the most beautiful in Europe."

He spoke to the newspaper while in Florence to visit friend and designer Ermano Scervino.

The fort is owned by the Italian government but operated by Florence authorities. It has been closed to the public for the past five years for security upgrades after two young Italians fell to their deaths from its ramparts and was to reopen this summer with an art exhibit. Di Lupo said she believed the contract to rent the fort had been signed very recently. She said the proceeds from the rental would go to fund restorations for Florence's artistic treasures.

Until the Italian report, the couple had reportedly been planning a wedding ceremony May 24 in France. Kardashian's sister, Kendall Jenner, is currently in Cannes attending the film festival. □

## Simon, Brickell court case continued until June 17

NORWALK, Conn. (AP) — Paul Simon and his wife, singer Edie Brickell, have appeared briefly in court for their disorderly conduct case.

The couple's next hearing is June 17 in Norwalk Superior Court.

A police report says the 48-year-old Brickell and the 72-year-old Simon became physical with each other during an April 26 argument inside a cot-

tage on their New Canaan property.

Brickell told police he shoved her during the argument, and she slapped him. The report says Simon suffered a superficial cut to his ear, and Brickell, who smelled of alcohol, had a bruise on her wrist.

Both said in court on April 28 that they did not consider the other a threat, and no protective order was issued. □





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